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Let Fops like me, ne'er nibble more at Wit.

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By *W. B.*

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MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM

THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

Courteous, Reader,

SINCE in this Curious and Critical Age, many do pretend to Wit, and Ingenuity; the Stage being thronged, the Press oppressed, and not a Coffee-House but what is unreasonably smoak'd with the Fumes of hot Working Brains, whose only Hopes and Designs are either to Prattle, or Scribble themselves into Reputation; and seeing every Body now-a-Days, has an Inclination at some time or other to Love, Mirth, and Goodness, I therefore humbly present these for your Pleasure, and my own Profit. For, let

others pretend Information, Instruction, Obligation, Friends, Country-men, or what they please; I must beg their Pardon, if I cannot screw up my Faith to believe them: For it plainly appears, that Interest has, and will Sway the World; so that I think there is no need of an *Epistle* to convince you of it, yet Custom calleth for one.

These following Novels *and* Jests *then take, some of which being acted in our Country, are New, True, and Pleasant, being never before made publick in Print: So if a Toothless Censure should fasten upon the Shoulders of my Reputation for them, and my Credit rankle by the Venom thereof, by some carping* Zoilus, *or severe* Cato, *I leave it to your Candor, to Judge and Censure, knowing that if you delight your self with Ingenious Fancies; you may then, I hope, find some in this to Answer your Expectation: But if there be any that ought to be Expunged, pray pass them by, and let the Merits of the Majority attone for their Defects: Some, I must confess, are Translated out of* French, *and Borrowed, tho' Retrenched, Polished and Refined. So if their Plot be dull or bad, pray impute the Blame to the Sterility and Dulness of* Monsieur's *Fancy, and not to Mine. I hope none of these either may or will inter-*

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fer with Religion, or good Manners; and I think it needless to advise you how, and at what time to Delight the Appetites of your Company with these; since every one cannot but know, that the proper Season for them is, when the Mind is unbended: So that Digestion may be assisted by Mirth of this Nature; but they must not be made the Subject of Discourse, but only conveniently larded or intermixed therewith, to season it the better; neither must they be used, or take Place, where Sickness or Sorrow have Dominion.

This then having nothing in it, which exceeds the Rules of Modesty, is therefore the more reasonably adapted to Youth, the better to enable them to enter into, and behave themselves Wittily and Ingeniously in good Company without [if it be possible] giving Offence to either Sex.

I offer these only to those of Dignity, and Renown, Parts and Understanding of Birth and Fortune, as you are, which soars above the rest of your Fellow-Creatures; being unbyas'd by the Customary Opinion of the World, and so far from believing any to be undeserving because Unfortunate, that their very Indigency intitles them to your Protection.

Humbly

Humbly so commending this, as an Antidote against Whimsical, Melancholly Fancies, being Graced with your Acceptance, so relying on your Goodness, in all humble Submission, I beg leave to Subscribe my self,

Your most Humble

and Devoûted Servant,

W. B.

CHOICE

CHOICE
And Uncommon
NOVELS.

The Amours of a Young Gentleman of Eighteen, with an Old Lady of Seventy Nine Years of Age; Being an Entire History of all that past between them, both in Visits and by Letters, from their first Aquaintance, to the happy Celebration of their Nuptials, &c.

IT being my good Fortune to be acquainted with a most Ingenious Young Lady, and to enjoy the Blessings of her Matchless Conversation, with great Freedom and Frequency, we soon became very Familiar, and contracted a firm Friendship; and being a Younger Brother of little Wit, and less Fortune; in my Bosom, she took Compassion on me, and told me that she was intimately acquainted with a Lady of a Solid Fortune; tho' she fear'd the great Inequality of Years would discourage, if not quite damp me, that she had good Interest in, and influence over her; and that if I would attempt the Enterprize she would give me her assisting Hand, and smooth the way, and did not doubt but to overcome the most daring Difficulties, if I could dispence

with empty Veins, ſhrievell'd Skin, and wither'd Face of Wainſcot, with Limbs all pale, and cold as Death, Voice hoarſe and raw, and almoſt loſt, not one Foot only, but both ready to ſtep into the Grave: and if this Character and Deſcription, true to a Tittle, wou'd not be too great a Mortification to me, for the Eſtate, ſhe would engage to make it up Ten Thouſand Pounds Sterling, if I found it not ſo much to a very penny; that the Money in Bonds, Mortgages and Caſh, wou'd be deliver'd into my Hands the next Morning after Conſummation. I told the Lady, ſhe told all this for Banter, and believed ſhe did it to give her ſelf and me ſome Diverſion; for indeed we both laugh'd heartily at the Narration. No, Sir, (ſays ſhe) I vow to God I am in earneſt, and have no other aim than to do you real Service, and fill your Pockets with a good round Sum of Money, with which you may purchaſe a good Eſtate, and be happy in the Enjoyment of a young Lady, when you have got rid of the Old, who cannot ſtick by you long; and it may be, I have alſo ſome ſelf-intereſt and private Plot in the Conduct of this Affair, for I muſt be Frank with you: I love you beyond all Mankind, and if I had a competent Eſtate to ſupport you and my ſelf, according to our Birth and manner of Living, I would not part with you out of my own Arms, if you were willing to reſt there; but my Annuity is too ſcanty to maintain us both, tho' it does me very Comfortably as you ſee.

I will feel the Old Lady's Pulſe by my ſelf, and prevail upon her to permit you to make her a Viſit. I will introduce you, and give you the faireſt Recommendation in the world; it may be the Lady may appear more Beautiful; nay,

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Charming in your Eyes, dazzel'd with her glittering Ore, than in mine, who though clearer [not being intereſſed] may like moſt of our Sex, drop into a ſevere Cenſure of each other. This I can aſſure you, ſhe has not vowed a ſingle Life, nor totally abjur'd Marriage; but in our frequent Conferences has ſprinkled many Gay and Liquoriſh Words, which makes me Fancy ſhe is not ſo old as ſhe ſeems to be; or at leaſt more Youthful, more Sprightly, and more Vigorous at bottom, than top. Beſides, Sir, [ſays ſhe] you are a Man of promiſing Parts, you have been well Educated, and have Travelled, and Converſ'd [tho' young] pretty much in the World, and have more Experience than I expected to have found in you: If you are uneaſie at home with an Old Wife, you may divert your ſelf abroad with a young Miſtreſs; which you cannot fail of obtaining, when at the head of ſuch a plentiful Fortune; you may pick and chooſe, for Gold is a mighty attractive of Ladies Love. Alas! your Blood is hot, you are in the Spring of your Age, your Appetite is clear and ſtrong, and needs no Incentives; for Nature prompts you, and ſets you on rather too faſt; you cannot ſtartle at old Age and wrinkles: You have read *Ovid*, he tells you, *If Ugly, if Handſome, if Crooked, if ſtraight, if Old, if Young; ſtill 'tis Woman kind.* Your Inclination has never been pall'd, and while the warmth of your Temper, which is Sanguine continues you need no whet of Youth or Beauty, as old ſurfeited Drunkards do of Old Hock, to give them a Stomach to a diſh of Fleſh. I ſhall not pretend to deſcribe her Temper, tho' I have deſcribed her Perſon, I may be too ſevere and cenſorious in that alſo: For we Women look upon our ſelves with Admiration, and upon

on others with Contempt; we are really very partial, and fond of Flattery: Nay, even from our Dear Selves, (the worſt of all) and our Looking Glaſſes help to betray our Judgments, but this will be certain, ſhe muſt be wondrous Complaiſant to you, and endeavour by all ways and means to gain and preſerve your Love: She will always have on her beſt Temper, and put on her beſt looks to entertain you when Married; and each glance or glimpſe of kindneſs in you, will melt her into a Preſent of uncommon Value: And ſurely if Nature be averſe and refractory, Intereſt the All-commanding Argument, the World's great Miſtreſs! The *Diana* of the Univerſe, will prompt you to entertain ſome Thought of making a vigorous attack, which will not coſt you ſo much Blood, Time or Treaſure, as the meaneſt Modern for't.

Well, *Madam*, (ſaid I) I give you ten thouſand Thanks, for your pretty obliging Diſcourſe and Advice, which I am reſolved to follow, and try what good Influences are hovering over my Head. I will diſpoſe my Affairs to be ready for a Viſit, and Equip my ſelf from Top to Toe, wonderous Beauiſh; to attend the ſucceſs of your Negotiations. and at our next Interview, take proper Meaſures for the further Perſecution of this Affair.

Some few days after, I met the Lady by meer chance in the Street, coming from Church; ſhe told me ſhe had a mighty ſucceſs in her Embaſſy, that the Old Lady was all in Tranſports, warm'd with the thoughts of Love, and tickled with the Hopes of Pleaſure; that ſhe liſtned attentively to the Motion, and frankly conſented to a Viſit; but deſired that ſhe ſhould come the firſt time along with me. that ſhe was fired with the Character ſhe gave of my Perſon and Parts;

that

that she perceived it by her Eyes, which sparkled a new, and by her Cheeks which recall'd and resum'd their Youthful Blushes: She found all over her a mighty Change, new Life, new Heart new Vigour! In every Limb and Member, her Blood run swift, her Pulse beat quick, and in a Word, she left her all over in Raptures.

Before we parted, we fix'd the day and hour, when I was to begin my approaches, the place of Rendevous was also agreed on, and accordingly three days after we met, about four a Clock in the Afternoon, a very fit Time to visit Ladies and Embassadors, who receive the Morning for Dressing and Business.

At our entrance into the House, we were conducted into a Parlor, there to attend the Ladys coming, which was indeed immediately, Genteelly rigg'd from Top to Toe; she was a little Youthfuler than seem'd her due, every thing very rich about her; her Person not Charming (tho' her Gold was) but really not contemptible the preceeding Character being no less than a Satyr: I found by my Pallat I could relish the Meat with the Sauce; tho' the Food was but ordinary and none of the tenderest, yet by the help of a strong Ragou, (*viz.* a good Estate) it would down. We were received with great Civility, and treated with distinguish'd Favors, all things great and handsom, a good Decorum observed in every thing: And after about an Hours Tittle-Tattle, sprinkled with News, and now and then a pleasant Story, we took leave with many acknowledgments for the kind Entertainment. The old Gentlewoman invited the Young Lady heartily to repeat the Visit soon and often, and told that she had a peculiar and uncommon Friendship for her. Which she owned, and paid her thanks for, and promised to

comply

comply with her Desires, and then gave me fair opportunity to speak, which I did lately: *And truly Madam* (quoth I) *I'll come along with her, I am sure I shall fare the better for her sake.* Indeed, Sir, (reply'd the Old Lady) you are a very pleasant Gentleman, and excellent good Company, full of fine and agreeable Stories, and Master of smooth and delicate Language, which you have absolutely at your Command, and which you deliver to an Advantage, without any Stiffness or Affection, but all that proceeds from you is purely Natural and Genuine: It must be an Obligation upon us both, if you will again give us your Conversation when the Lady, now with us comes hither again. So we took our leave, and left the Old Lady extreamly well pleased (as we guess'd) at what had past. This first interview seemed to carry a good Omen with it: The Lady told me, she believed so propitious beginning could not fail of an unhappy ending; that no Astrologer in the World could have made Choice of a more Fortunate Time, all things concurring to our very Desires. We then began to debate upon the Pleasures we were to take for a further Progress in this Affair, and it was resolved that the Young Lady should go alone, within two or three Days, and visit the Old Lady, and see what Impressions she had received, and to examine her Opinion of my Person, Humour, and Demeanour, which was done; and at our next meeting a particular Account given of it, and altogether satisfactory No remorse or difficulties in the way, but every thing upon the level; so we concluded it would be best for me to go alone, and boldly Knock at the Door, and ask for the Lady, and so proceed to make my Address in Form: Which I did in a short Time after,

after, and was received with abundance of Respect, and was possess'd with an Opinion that I could hardly fail of Success. I staid about two Hours, and entertained the Old Lady with my Travels into Foreign Countries, and my Observations made there: She seemed mightily pleased with them, and told me, She wished she had been with me, and that she was glad no Disasters had attended me, and said that Foreign Travel joined to good Education, was a great Ornament; and that fine Parts embellished by witty Conversation, rendered a Man absolute and compleat, and gave more true, and more durable Charms than Youth or Beauty; that the last were accidental and perishing, but the first essential and permanent, making the best Distinction between Man and Man; and indeed were the only valuable Accomplishment in this World that she fancied her self Queen *Dido*, and me Prince *Æneas*; relating my Adventures with more Grace than he did his, and with this difference, that mine was a cheerful and pleasant Story, and his clouded and Melancholly, often drawing Tears from his Mistress; whereas mine on the contrary, gave her nothing but Mirth, without the least allay: She begged me to pardon the pleasantness of her Temper, and not to charge her with Levity or Vanity, in the parallel, to suppose herself so young as *Dido* or me so old as *Æneas*; and that as she had taken an innocent freedom with me in her Conversation, so she hoped I would make no unkind or unnatural Reflections upon her Conduct: That as I appeared, so she believed I was a Gentleman, and as such she could fear no ill Treatment from me. To all which I gave her as suitable Answers as I could, and owned the Honour she did me, by the great

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Character she gave of me, and by the Comparison she made, which was so much in my Favour but superiour to my Merit, that I was happy in having given her my Diversion, which indeed was my chiefest aim, and in which indeed I should always take pleasure, that I found her Mistress of much Experience, and solid Judgment: Having many nice and curious Observations, particularly of the destinction of Man from Man; that I found her Poetical, Historical, and Philosophical Accomplishments to be rarely found in the Fair Sex; but Possessions much more valuable than those of Land, Money, Plate or Jewels; that I should be proud of, and covet her Company beyond any in the World, that I fly from, and wholly abandon the Conversation of Men and Books, and come to her as a Treasury of Learning and Knowledge; this Flourish was taking, and drew Thanks in abundance from the Lady, to hear her self so praised and admired. So after a little more of the same sort of Chat, we parted with a Declaration of mutual Satisfaction, and what Felicities we were to participate in the happy Friendship we had so lately founded; which both promised to cultivate and improve to the highest pitch of Perfection: And now I think it will be fit to describe her Person, the Humour it is impossible as yet, though that may be done after more Visits are made.

I returned full to the young Lady, my Confident, and there unbosom'd my self, I informed her of all that had past, our very Dialogue was repeated, and my Conduct throughout the whole wonderfully applauded, and then it was I charged this young Gossip with an unfair account of the Person of my Mistress, for she had mightily abused her Judgment, and charged her with

empty

empty Veins, whereas they were brimful (if not of Blood) of Love; her shrivelled Skin, which was indeed a little shrunk, but yet her Body in the main Plump, which was better than dry Bones; and for her Skin it had been well painted by Nature, tho' now something sullied, and discolour'd a little upon the Wainscot; and for the rest, it was rather a Calumny than a Character: In short, she was a good agreeable Woman, chearful and brisk in Conversation, and not quite so old as reported; a Gentlewoman well bred, of good Sense, and of Experience in general, in the Affairs of the World; wondrous Amorous, and appeared very pleasant, when ever that was the Text, of Person Proper, in Motion Graceful, Frank and clear in Speech, very Complaisant; and though her Face was furrow'd, her Cheeks were Plump, her Teeth were gone, but her breath was sweet, her Breasts were large, and a little lank, her Shape preserved, her Step was stately, her Habit handsom, and every thing suitable to her Years. Instead of repeating the Visit, I sent her (three or four Days after) the following Letter.

Madam,

THE Favours I received at your Hands at our last Interview, Merit my best Acknowledgment, with which this Billet is charged; such an Impression they made upon me, that no Time, Age, Distance or Absence shall ever Efface. I take this Method to manifest my Gratitude, because I can do it here with more freedom; this sort of Conversation admits a larger Latitude: In your Presence I am awed by something peculiarly great in you; so that tho' I have no Reason to suspect my own Courage, or in the least to doubt your Candor: Yet I cannot be so Frank there, as I am now with a Pen in my Hand in this Place. It would not only, I fear, be thought too forward but even prove in vain to ask; may so hope for so

great

great an Honour as an Answer from your fair Hand; if it were but to be informed of your Health, which I passionately desire to be satisfied of. However let my Fate in that be what it will, forthwith I will dispatch the Affairs I have upon the Anvil, and haste to you, to give you yet a far greater Evidence, that I am beyond all Expression,

Madam,

Your most Obedient and

Obliged Servant, *W. B.*

At my return to Town (which was in six Days after this Letter was sent) I went immediately to wait on the Lady that was the happy Negotiatrix between the old Gentlewoman and me, to know the success of my Epistle: She told me it was wonderous well received, and that it had been answer'd if I had staid but two Days longer in the Country; so impatient was the Mistress of my Wishes to see me, that she even intended to press my return in her Answer to mine; adding further, that all things had the fairest Face in the World, that good Fortune attended me in every thing and every where; and that I need not in the least fear a favourable and propitious end of my Amours: All which was very grateful News to me. So after a just return of Thanks for the good Offices and Services perform'd by this She-manager, during my absence, I sent for a Bottle of Red, to Drink hers and the old Lady's Healths, which we did over and over; and then (being inspired with Wine) we formed new Measures how to proceed in this weighty Affair; and accordingly it was resolved that I should go in the Afternoon to the Ladies House, and let her know that I arrived but that very Minute, and was uneasie till I came an threw my self at her Feet. Which was precisely executed, and I received with no small Transports of Joy, and told that my Letter from the Country was very agreeable; and that if ever I happen'd to make any

more

more Sallies of that kind, my Converſation by Letters would be own'd as a very great Favour. This you may be ſure not a little tickled me: So we ſat, ſometimes News was our Subject, but oftener Love; tho' I would not dwell upon that Theam too long, leaſt it ſhould have been nauſeous even to my ſelf, for I muſt conſeſs Intereſt (the ſafeſt Guide in the World) rather than Love conducted my Deſigns: *Cupid* with all the Influence he is ſaid to have over others, had very little Power over my Heart: I might very well with the Poet have own'd, that I could eaſily have deſry'd both the Boy and his Mother; and indeed have (if they had been in) driven them out by the Power of another, (a much more mighty Deity) call'd *Bacchus*. But this damn'd deluding Devil, Intereſt, that had bewitch'd me abſolutely, and in a manner conſtrained me to abandon the little Reaſon I was Maſter of; and to Sacrifice my preſent as well as future Peace of Mind to an Idol (call'd Money) though admired by all the World; yet really, nay, generally in times paſt contemn'd by me; (not in the ſenſe of the Ancient Philoſophers, who in that reſembled the malicious Fox that could not reach the Grapes, therefore pronounced them ſowr) who not wanting a reaſonable Competency, ſo need not to fear being pinch'd by Gruel Neceſſity: Ever was of Opinion, much Wealth brought much Care and Trouble; therefore rather to be avoided than courted, eſpecially when a Woman of ſo great an Inequality of years, (as Seventy Nine to bear Eighteen) was to be made a Wife of; elſe the Coin as Charming as it was, muſt not be ſmiered, no not ſo much as toucht by me, Alas, poor me.

I frequently reflected upon theſe Terms, and ſometimes thought them very ſevere, eſpecially when I put Tranquility of Mind in one Scale, and

and a lusty lump of refined Earth in the other; of which I once believed no quantity whatever, tho' never so great, could attone for the loss of the other. In reality there is no comparison between them. Thus was my Breast perplext; disquiet did often invade me, for tho' Young, Rash, nay and foolish too, I was not without some Thoughtful and Melancholly Moments. Fears I had upon me, lest the long Race I had (in all humane probability) to run, should be impeded by dispair, (the near Neighbour to Death) and my Life, if not shorten'd, at least made tedious, dull and unhappy (which are incommodities not to be born with, if the *Roman* greatness of Mind be at all esteem'd by us).

Thus torn between two Extreams, *viz.* Covetousness to obtain a great Fortune, and Fear to live wretchedly with an Old Wife: I knew not what Course to take, (for in the whole World I had not one faithful Friend to advise with in this nice Matter) one prompted me to advance; t'other counselled, or at least would have frighned me into a Retreat. Some steps I have already made; therefore it would have been dishonourable to have quitted the Ground I had gain'd; to look back, was to marr the whole matter: But I resolute, as I always was, yet knew not how to steer the Ship of my Mind.

The Lady [in whose presence I happen'd then to be, whilst these very Thoughts were fluctuating about my Breast] was curious to know what made me seem so pensive, and so mightily to have changed Humour, in so short a space of time, that I let her have all the Chit Chat, and just answered Yes, and No: Whereas at my first, second, nay, and beginning of this third Visit, I was very full of pretty Prattle, wonderfully Entertaining, and so Attractive, that her Ears were hardly her own.

To

To her Interrogatories, I replied very Pertly, and much Artifice, denying absolutely any Ungratefulness or sudden Change, or any the Variation of Humour; alledging that it was Respect to her, made me so silent, together with a mighty Pleasure I took in her Discourse; and giving her leave in my turn I would talk, and endeavour her Diversion, which was what I chiefly (as I said) aimed at.

Soon we went, and I continued my Visit till we had spun out two full Hours, when I thought it was time to take leave, and hasten to my Bottle, and beloved Companions, who then were staying for me at the *Devil Tavern*; (any Devil I thought then, is better than the Devil of an old Wife). So after salute, gentle Embrace, and abundance of Compliments; I lower'd my Top sail and sail'd away, and glad was I, I was got away, and going (as then esteemed) to better, and more agreeable Company: However at parting, I dropt words that bore hopes of another Visit, and that pretty suddenly, which drew smiles and pleasant looks from my Mistress pretty Phiz, which made her Dimples (or rather Wrinkles) appear mighty large and plain, but out of her sight, they soon vanish'd out of my Mind, especially by the aid and assistance of the Noble and Elevated Juice of the Grape, which soon caused me to change Sentiments, and resume my former Gay temper. I soon forgot all that had pass between my loving Mistress and me; the Healths went round, (nay and the Room too in a little time) and the Glasses danc'd merrily about, and the Bottles rattled upon the Table; we were mighty Merry, and had a little snack of Manageables to fill up, and make the Nectar glide down the Gibber, and so we past the whole

Even-

Evening, nay, and Night too; which would have been pleasant had it been as long again, for none of us called for Day, by which its Light and Business, is often a very sore Enemy to good Fellows. At two we quitted our Posts, paid Cost and Damages, and so retired.

After six Hours Sleep, and half an Hours slight Slumber, I began to recapitulate, and to recall to my mind the Affairs of the past Twenty Four Hours, I began with the Business of the Afternoon, not Matrimony, but something very near it, (and which I am sure is better than any part of it) *viz.* Matter of Money. I reflected very seriously upon all that had passed between my great Grandmother (for she was old enough to be so) and me; as also upon the dampness and dulness of Humour, as weal as heavy thoughts which attacked me, during my being in her Company. Whether the Wine having heated my Blood, had banished my Fears, Doubts and Scruples, or whether being absent, had struck out the dismal Idea of her, I can hardly give an account, but this I remember, that on my Pillow I had none of those dreadful Thoughts in my Noddle of Sorrow grief or despair of restless Nights and doleful Days, if matters should end in a close Conjunction of our two precious Bodies: (For I much question'd whether there would be any Union of our Souls, nay or Hearts either.) No; nought but pleasing Fancies entertained my waking Minutes, as indeed Amorous Dreams had my sleeping Hours. The Cordial I took the Night before was good, and the Dose pretty large, which I believe made my Spirits brisk and pert; nay, I could almost have wish'd the Old Lady in my Arms; so much had *Cupid* gained upon me by the power of good Wine, whose Charms are far more pleasing than those of Love.

Up I got, and flew to my Escritore, when pon-

dering

dering upon Matters, and having ſmall inclination to any more Viſits as yet; I reſolved to divert my ſelf in the Country, hoping to beat all Thoughts of this old Muſty Creature out of my Head; however not quite to abandon the Enterprize, I drew up the following Epiſtle and ſent it to her.

Madam,

Buſineſs of mighty Importance obliging me to leave the Town for a few Days, and not permitting me time to take my leave of You (as I ought) I have ſent this ſwift Meſſenger to ask you ten Thouſand Pardons. The Minute of my return, I ſhall attend your Commands, and be proud, if you have any for me; being at Heart.

Madam,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

W. S.

Away I went to *Epſom* forthwith, where I met ſome old Acquaintances, with whom I paſſ away my Hours very agreeably, hardly once t.inking (much leſs Dreaming) of my Superannuated Miſtreſs. Sometimes a vain *Idea* of her ſhrevelled Corps would force it ſelf into my Mind, and give me a little damp, and put me upon a ſhort pauſe, but then I waſh'd it away in ſparkling Champaign, delightful Stories, and Waggiſh Tales, ſoft Songs, melodious Muſick, Country Dances, and other Diverſions ſoon kick'd (or at leaſt ſhook) out all Penſiveneſs on her Account. But then that All-commanding God of this World *Mammon* inſinuating to my Thoughts, what a large ſhare of Pleaſure and Happineſs attended Riches; and how all my Ways could be then ſtrewed with Joys and gay Delights: I liſtened to theſe ſly and fond Incitements, and began ſeriouſly to conſider, that it would be my true intereſt to make this

Affair

Affair warm, and not by my indifference of absence, to make way for some more diligent Rival, which put me upon the Resolution of sending her another Billet, which was in the following Words.

Madam,

I shall be in Town in less than Forty Eight Hours, when my promise in my last Letter shall be punctually perform'd. My Modesty hitherto has constrained me to conceal my Passion, but I find it in vain to pretend to it any longer, 'tis impetuous, and not to be resisted much less subdu'd: I thought Business and Distance would have extinguish'd it. But no, nothing can expel it, it is so deeply rooted in my Soul; I dare scarce tell I love you and yet I must: Nor can you suspect my Aim to be on your Gold only because you know I am no Mercenary Man I am satisfied I can be Happy with you, and not without you You may be easy with me, for you shall find such Complaisance in me, that the whole World shall be convinced of the false Notions generally Inbib'd, That Youth and Age cannot agree. I'll make your Days Delightful, and your Nights pleasant: not one disagreeable Thought shall live in your Breast, all shall be Love, all shall be Joy But Oh! whither am I going? how am I transported! the Subject Inspires me! I can hardly give over, but least I should e thought tedious or troublesome, I must conclude, and only tell you that I am in earnest

Your Faithful Lover,
and Ardent Admirer,
W Salisbury.

The two Days being expired, I mounted my stately Steed, and up I came full Gallop all the way, impatient to be at the good old Woman I meant

meant at her Coffers; for there in Sober Sadness, lay my load of Love: That was the attractive that drew my Heart: My Pockets were empty, hers full; my Veins were full, and hers empty. It would be but Barter or Swop, and I reckoned I should have the best Bargain: So I resolved to proceed and push on my Amours, with all imaginable Vigour and Application.

Accordingly at my Arrival, I forthwith Visited Agent, whom in my absence I had left to negotiate my Matters. After Salute and reciprocal Compliments, (things of course) I fell to the business, and asked the young Gossip how things went? Oh, rarely well, (replys she) the old Lady was mightily pleas'd with your Letters, especially your last, because in that you laid open your very Heart to her, and she was always in pain before the Receipt of that, lest you shou'd have only a design upon her Cash, without the least value or esteem for her: but now that you have declar'd your Passion, and represented it in a manner, so Elevated and Sublime, she really fancies you are Sincere; for she does not believe she's so Old as she is: Being I assure you not without some light Expressions, and wanton Words; (which she would most certainly censure in a young Lass. In good Faith, the Old Girl is a little Wagish now and then especially when she thinks or talks of you: You will have a fond piece of her, she will stick to you like Bird lime, and be as loving as the Ivy to the Oak; and you like a Wise Man must wink at all her Follies and Faults, her Money will make amends for all; that, that alone can attone for all the Defects in her, (or any Body else) of Youth, Beauty or Wit. And as *Butler* makes his Sir *Hudibras* speak to his Mistress: *'Tis not her bright piercing Eyes, but the Orient Pearl about her Neck; 'tis not Golden Locks, but her*

Yellow Coin in Chests; not her Rosie Cheek, nor Lovely Lips that are the Attractive of his Heart, but the Noble and truly Valuable Pictures of Silver in her Cabinet. I fancy you are a kin to that Gold, as well as they did with him. In a Word you have her Heart, though as yet she has none of yours; she can't (that is, she won't) keep any thing from you; she will not conceal any Bills or Bonds, Bundles or Bags, Rings, Plate, Jewels or ought else from you, for you will be Absolute Master (not in Law only, but) by Possession; she will throw them all into your Lap the second Day of your Marriage, if you happen to please her well the first Night, as in all probability you may, for you are as likely and promising, as ever I saw a Man; Nature having been very liberal to you thereabouts, as I have been told, therefore for your Life be Vigorous; the first attack will be the worst, it can't daunt but it may damp your Courage; there can no great difficulty arise to be encounter'd by you, for there is a breach in her Fort already, [she being no Maid] so the easier taken, nay, it will surrender at Discretion; therefore I say, *Fear not, let not your noble Courage be cast down*; all that you have to oppose you, that can be formidable, is borrow'd Hair, artificial Teeth, perfum'd Plumbs in Mouth, Lank Flesh, Old Aches, Pungent Pains, and some few unsavoury Scents, which will be sufficently Sweetened the next Morning, by the rich Present she will make you of above Ten Thousand Pound Sterling (besides the Appendix already mention'd for your Breakfast) and if you don't think your self nobly Rewarded, I know not what to say to you. I must tell you Sir, those will be large Acknowledgements for secret Service; there are a great many Gentlemen about th Town, wou'd be glad to take

take your Place, and make me a Present of Five Hundred Guineas, tho' I neither expect, nor will accept of a Shilling from you on that Score, all that I desire, or shall pretend to deserve, will be the continuation of your Love and Friendship.

To all which acceptable Discourse, I made this Return:

Madam, I have now gain'd an Absolute Mastery, and entire Conquest over my Nice and squemish Humour; I have, I say, subdued my foolish and idle Fancy; I can well digest such Food as that, especially with the help of Champignious, (Mushrooms I mean) and such good Pickles, as you just now talk'd off; Pox on it, it will be but doing Penance for a few Hours, to obtain a Kingdom of Pleasure and Happiness, as wide as the World, and as lasting as my Life; such a plentiful Fortune will give me Comfort and Liberty, and Faith I'll take it; I'll make the Old Lady's Money fly about, she shall Pay the Piper, I fackins she shall; I'll soon have my Hand in, and at the Bottom of her Bags, though they were as long as my Father's draw-Well is deep, and that is above Fourscore Yards. I'll Treat you Nobly, my dearest Jewel at the *Spring-Gardens*, in the *Parks*, and at the *Play House*; the Taverns shall be our Office, and if the old Pastimes and Pleasures of this World seem Dull and Flat, we will find out new Ones, more Pleasing and more Gay. You shall Share largely of my good Fortune, as indeed you will Merit, because you will be the happy Instrument, and Author of it. My Obligations to you will be Vast, but my Gratitude to you shall be suitable to your Services. Nay, and to your Desires, always very modest and reasonable.

Well Sir, (adds the young Lady) there is

nothing now remaining on your part to be done, but advance briskly, and to push boldly, the Town's your own, and all the plunder, it only waits [like *Buda*] for your approach to yield; the numerous Armies of your Rivals having long quitted the Field, to make way for your great and glorious Success, which you can no more fail of, than I can cease to Love you: Besides, I have consulted the two greatest Doctors in Astrology, *Gad*——*y* and *Par*——*ge*, upon the matter; and they both agreed in their Opinions, their Schemes being Radical, (and your Nativity also promising good Fortune from Women of elder Years) that you would be lucky in all your Attempts of that kind: this is the Time, the Critical Minute, away then, haste to the good old Lady, I know she will receive you with open Arms; nay, will hardly forbear Kissing you; for *Mars* and *Venus* are now near a Conjunction, which is an excellent Position, very propitious to Lovers; you need fear no *Vulcans*, there are none in that Neighbourhood, no Nets to be spared to catch you, but what the old Woman carries about her: Be gone, be gone, I say, delay not a Minute, lose not a Moment; I am satisfied all will go according to your Hearts Desire.

I Obey, *Madam*, [replied I] so a Coach was called to grace the Cause, and Leave taken; away I rattled to the Old Countess's, who knowing my Knock, flew to the great Gate her self, and heartily welcom'd me to Town; telling me, 'twas not a Month, a Year, but an Age since I left her, that she had not passed one easie Moment since we parted; that she received some small Consolation in my Billets, but should have done much more in my Conversation: That she was resolv'd I should never be so

ſo long abſent, nor far diſtant again, let the Affair be of never ſuch Importance to me; that ſhe did once ſuſpect, but now was well ſatisfied of the Sincerity of my Paſſion, and that ſhe could not fear the Conſtancy of it; ſeeing ſhe had Ligaments ſtrong enough to bind it, if not Charms engaging enough to endear it, that two Hearts thus United, and made as it were in one Mold, could not fail of being exceeding Happy; that ſhe flatter'd her ſelf (and hoping he ſhould not be deceiv'd or diſappointed) that I would be wonderful Complaiſant to her, and Civil at laſt, if not very Indulgent.

As for her Part, all my faithful Services ſhould be Nobly gratified, according to her Generoſity, and my Deſert; aſſuring me that ſhe would never be Jealous, nor Curious to Pry into, and find out my Intrigues with Young Ladies, if ever I ſhould have any, of which ſhe had not the leaſt Apprehenſion. And to conclude, that her Perſon and whole Fortune were abſolutely at my Service and diſpoſal; and that ſhe hoped would not unkindly charge her openneſs with Levity, or ſuſpect her guilty of any looſe Thoughts, or fond Deſigns; declaring and proteſting, that nothing but Love was in her view, that her Paſſion was pure and untainted, and that my Perſon and Converſation were the only aim ſhe had; that in poſſeſſing one, and Enjoying the other, ſhe ſhould be Lady of more Wealth, than both the Indies contain; that her chiefeſt Pleaſure would conſiſt in admiring for ever, my noble Phiſognomy, which in her Opinion carried in it ſomething extraordinary, and preſaged temporal Greatneſs and Honour, and in the Diverſion ſhe could receive in my Converſation, which had Charms in it beyond all Expreſſion; that like an Eternal Spring, I

never came into her Company but I had something new; and that the oftner she saw my Person, or heard my Voice, the more she lov'd and admir'd me; which wanted nothing to attain the nicest pitch of Perfection, but a speedy Consumation of Marriage, which lay at my Door, and which she left wholly to my Consideration; and so with a Bumper of Champaign Wine, she confirm'd all that she had said, (at the same Time drinking my Health and Felicity) to me.

To all which I enjoyn'd, that the Humours and Favours she had done me, were uncommon and distinguish'd; that from the Minute of our first Acquaintance to this very Moment, I had met with Civility, even to excess: That she was Mistress of all the Virtues Requisite or Necessary, to gain the Heart of the greatest Man upon Earth: That mine was intirely vanquish'd, and would have been, had it been an Army of Ten Thousand Hearts, to have surround and guarded it: That I firmly resolv'd, and indeed intended, to have made some resistance, but all in vain, it was very slight and faint, hardly deserving the Name of Opposition; that the Fates would have it so; and therefore I readily resign'd my self to her Appointment; for it was bootless to contend, when Destiny had so fairly declar'd in her Favour; that her many Merits would more than compensate for the Defect of Youth, which for the most part is attended by Folly, Vanity and Levity; whereas her advanced Age had produced much Wisdom and Prudence obtain'd; nay, rivated by long Experience, (in it self hovering) which would be greater Comforts, and bring more solid Joys, than a painted Babby, patch Phiz, or Lascivious Glances, lewd Gestures, and indecent Actions, which in the end brought Pensiveness, Sorrow; nay,

and

and ſometimes doleful Diſtempers, and mature Death.

The Old Lady was not a little gratified with my Openneſs, and Candor, vowing that ſhe hated all manner of Flattery and Diſſimulation; of which ſhe obſerved the leaſt in me that ſhe ever did in any Man; adding, That my plainneſs and integrity, ſhould be highly valued by her: Urging, That clear and round dealing was the Honour of Man's Nature; nay, and of a Woman's too! that baſe Actions, not only wore their own Guilt, but alſo carried their own Puniſhment, even in this World, beſide what lay in reſerve for the other.

Thus had we a mixture of Divinity, as well as Mortality: And in ſhort, abundance of very ſerious and ſober Chat, far excelling the little tattle, or prittle prattle of young ſlippery Goſſips, whoſe Company is no where valuable, but upon the Downy Pillow, the place expreſly made for Love.

To bind recipocrally all that had paſt between us, ſhe took a large Rummer of generous Wine, and having fill'd it up to the very Brim, Drank an Health to my future Fortune, and to a ſpeedy and happy Conſummation; at which ſhe took a hearty Pull, getting at leaſt a third part of the Way towards the Bottom; and Faith I e'en made an End of the reſt, heartily Pledging ſo good a Health, beginning hers with the ſame adjuncts.

Her Heart being wonderfully Elevated by that noble Juice, and inflamed by that grateful Paſſion; which as *Ovid* ſays, *Is adding Fire to Fire*: She expreſt a mighty ſatisfaction at all that had been ſaid or done, during our long Conference; and told me very frankly, that ſhe would take it into her moſt ſerious

Conſideration, and adviſe with her Pillow, as ſhe hoped I would alſo do, for Matters of that high Nature, and vaſt Importance, which required deep and mature Deliberation, being by no means to be raſhly enterpriz'd, for fear of Repentance, which ever brought bitterneſs in abundance with it.

I praiſed her wary Caution, and prudent Conſideration beyond Meaſure, confirming her Opinion, commending highly her Conduct, and conſenting readily to the Exaction thereof, according to her Scheme and Method. And ſo after an hearty Hug, and tender Embraces, dwelling upon her ſoft Lips for a few Moments, [which I ſaid] I could have lived upon for ever, tho' I ſhould have found them but thin Diet, far worſe then Water-Gruel; we parted for that time to our Mutual ſatisfaction. She attended me to the very Door, and gave an Amorous glance juſt at my going off.

According to her pious Project, I reſolv'd to ruminate upon this Affair on my Pillow, to morrow Morning in my Bed; but this tedious Viſit, which had been tireſome, and very fatiguing to me, put me upon the thoughts of beating about for my Bottle Companions, whom I found at their old Poſt, in I went, was very mum in the Matters that had paſt between the old Lady and my ſelf: I clapt a Pad lock upon my Mouth as broad as a bumper of Wine, and ſweetly ſuck'd in the reviving Gulph, which I found far more agreeable than the Cordial of Love, a ſmall draught of which [at leaſt with her] I was in all likelihood to take, unleſs there be no difference in Women.

However, when the Wine had warm'd my Interious; I found my Tongue very willing to move, accordingly I told my Friends preſent,

That

That an Acquaintance of mine, of about Eighteen Years of Age, was engaging with an Old Gentlewoman of Seventy Nine; that she had a swinging Cod of the ready Rhino; that she was very agreeable in Conversation, and really in her Person not at all to be despised; asking their Sentiments upon the Matter. *Faith* (replies one of them) *'tis your self* Will, *you Rogue. You are a cunning Dog* (says another) *A sly Toad* (adds a third.) *Will*, [say they all] *how much Coriander has she?* About Twelve thousand Pounds Sterling in Money, Jewels, Furniture, &c. Assuring them that it was not I, but a Familiar Acquaintance of mine, that was concern'd in this Affair: But it was not a little pleasing, nay, diverting to me, to hear their various and confus'd Opinions hereon; the deep Descents, and witty Reflections they made on this Occasion. Let it suffice, that I oblige the Reader with some of the most material and keenest of them:

What! (says one) *will you, you Young Rascal, throw away your self upon an old dull, Drowsy bald Moth? A second, Have you no more Sense than to suffer your Vertue to be drawn out of you by an Old Witch, born in the days of Queen Bess? Another, do you value the Peace of your Mind the Tranquility of your Thoughts at so low a rate, as to expose your self to the Evils attendant on so unequal a Match.*

Then another Party begun, (for you must know that we had two Factions among us) *and said, Verily, I think Will was in the right; let her be as ugly as the Devil, or his Dame; as old as Mother Shipton: nay, and as wrinkled too, what aduce need he care? Has not he upon Marriage with her, a Fortune that has in its power, Pleasures unspeakable? Witty Companions,*

Chearful Bottles, Young Mistresses, Rural Sports, a Coach, a brace of Geldings, and Hunters, besides Equipage Noble, Town Divertisement, Plays, Parks, Wells, and what not? Is not this Pitty, Gentlemen; to lose all these, for fear of having a few ill Moments at Home, whether he need resort but seldom, once a Month is often enough, just to see that all Things are in Order, and to know whether the Devil has not carried the Witch off, according to compact, her time being now expired; or to fetch some Coin to carry abroad, to continue the Pleasure there? Nor is there any absolute necessity for the Young Man ever (but once only) to go between the Sheets with the old Trot; it is sufficient, and as much as she Deserves for all her Money and Fondness, if he be civil and complaisant to her; which is a Thing may be done without much Reluctancy, that is not very hard against Nature, it will cost but little, a few good Words, some Smiles, and fair Actions to boot.

Another started up, and went on upon the same Tropick, and urged, That Will's conduct was to be praised; for he was a younger Brother, as well as a young Fellow, and had no Fortune, at least not any that deserv'd that Name; that he did well to strike, for old Women often Doats on Young Men: and what if she were stricken in Years, the Older she was, the sooner she would Dye, and then he would be decently rid of her: besides, if the Youth was impatient, there were gentle ways enough to remove her out of sight at least, if not quite out of the way, that he needed no Advice in the Matter, for tho' he was but a young Man, yet was an Old Townsman, and not only knew the Town and country very well, but had also practised as many Roguish Tricks, as any Beau of them all; had been clapt

clapt several times, and cured by the famous Dr. Floyd as often; often had been Drunk, and often Sober; had Gam'd, and done all other things that accomplish young Gentlemen, that take up their abode in this large Town, call'd London, where many a brave Man is soon undone, tho' after all, it is one of the best Accademies in the World to train up Youth in.

And to the same purpose proceeded others: Thus was poor I see saw'd most unmercifully, till calling a new Cause, we quitted that, and fell on another Subject, and then drank about briskly: By this time we were all warmed, then I drew off and quitted the Field, remember that I had a very knotty piece of work to puzzle my Pate about, that therefore I would go sober to Bed, that my Head being free from Fumes, I might in the Morning think with more freedom and form some good Resolution, in an Affair so weighty as that, which might last all my Life-long. I did accordingly, and took leave, and whipt down my Club, and mov'd off, and so quietly went to my Repose, and at my waking, fell upon the Text I had fresh before me.

But as young as I was, I had read *Oburn's* Advice to his Son, and particularly that Chapter about Marriage; and tho' he lashes the poor Ladies unreasonably, yet I found he gave some quarter to those that were well Endow'd, which in plain *English*, was to those that were very Rich, which he says, is very Comfortable in this World. He was a meer Satyrist, and treated the Fair Sex Unmannerly; Nay, Barbarously, more to shew his Wit than good Nature, or good Breeding: For after he has broke their Heads, he gives them a Plaister; in some places calling them *Divine Beauties* and Cœlestial Shapes; Advising them to contem Marriage,

and

and so be admired for their Beauty in their Youth and for their Vertue in their Old Age.

Having done with him I recollected a Passage in *Hudibrass*, that gave me some Consolation; for that noised in my Ears last Night, *pro* and *con*, had almost Stun'd, if not Stupified me: But the Celebrated Poet's Words are these;

Marriage at best is but a Vow,
Which all Men break, or bow.

By that I founnd that I might a little indulge my self, to which I was well inclin'd; being in my principles as well as practices, a *Latitunadinarian*, and a *Deist*, tho' no *Atheist* I promise you.

Upon the whole, I resolv'd to wait upon the Lady of my Affections in the Afternoon; for I had sufficiently digested the whole Affair. Accordingly I went, and prest my Amour most Pathetically, and made such a very deep hole in her Heart that after she had asked me, if I had consider'd well upon the Affair on the Pillow? I assured her, that I had well weighed it; and was very easie in every part and point thereof: We soon fixt the Day to Celebrate our Nuptials, which was agreed to be the following *Thursday*, by which time the Taylor could be able to new vamp up our Clothes, for we resolved not to make any new Ones, till after Consumation; for we knew that would make a great noise in the Town, and cause us to be put in the *Flying-Post*, *Post-Boy* or *Post Man*: To prevent which, and other inconveniencies that attended publick Shews and Ostentation; we concluded on a private Wedding, which we accordinoly executed at the very time appointed, at St. *Pancras*, [the Mother of St. *Pauls*] and afterwards had a good Dinner, then went to the *Play-house*, from thence to a good Supper, and so to Bed together, and had as much pleasure as ever I desire in one Night

to

so long as *I* live; and next Morning receiv'd a Present of Ten Thousand Pounds for my good Services.

A Noble Man Cuckolded by his Servants.

SInce it is customary among Persons of great Rank, to lie in a Chamber a part from their Ladies; There was a certain One (which shall be now nameless) who notwithstanding his Lady was both Beautiful and Brisk as most were; yet for all that, to keep up the custom of Gayity, and the Humour of the Town and Country, and when he had a desire at any time to enjoy the sweet Embraces of his Lovely Consort, rising from his own Bed, he would steal out in the Dark in his Shirt, making no noise, and knocking at the Ladies Door softly, which she hearing, and knowing his knock, did rise and give him admittance. Now besides the Mode, he was wont to say, That it look'd like, and had as much pleasure in it as Whoring; and so being not only *à la Mode de Paris*, but also *de Anglitere* used it: Having only what Nights, and as often as he pleased performed the necessary and obliging Duty of the Marriage Bed. He return'd to his own Chamber, to spend the residue of the Night, in an undisturbed Repose. One of the Lord's *Valle de Chambers* (whether Naturalized or no, [I leave you to guess,] taking Notice of the Humour, concluded, since the Lady was so Charming, and her Lord had given her Provocation, by keeping of Mistresses, concluded that he might take an Opportunity, and have admittance into his Lady's Chamber, and participate

ticipate of the ſame Pleaſures; by the ſame means his Maſters humour and uſage had inculcated into his Thoughts.

Upon a ſerious Conſultation with himſelf, he concluded that Night beſt for the accompliſhing his Deſign, in which his Maſter had viſited his Lady: So about an Hour or two after, he reſolved to put his Luſtful Project in Practice, which he doing ſo well by Imitation, that he got Entrance.

So that I'll leave it to you, both to think, and judge how he ſpent his Time, without putting your Modeſty to the extravagancy of Bluſhes; all I ſhall ſay, That upon report, he perform'd his Part ſo Vigorouſly, and ſo often, that when he departed, he left the Innocent Lady all in Wonder and Amazement; but that which increaſed her Admiration, was not only his profound ſilence, tho' ſhe urged him to ſpeak, but the coming of her Lord (as ſhe thought and ſuppoſed) twice.

So timely ſlipping away, her dear Lord, whilſt ſhe was ruminating alone, knock'd again ſtimulated in all probability more than ordinary, by ſome Provocations he had taken on the Day, whiſperingly demands an entrance again; So the Lady knowing his Voice, roſe and let him in.

But as he was about to proſecute his accuſtomed Enjoyment, the moderate and modeſt Lady begged of him to forbear; aſſuring him, That ſhe was (as all good and Vertuous Women ſhould be) ſatisfied with what ſhe had got.

Further telling him, innocently and ignorantly, That he was much to blame, for being ſo inordinate in his Deſires.

For what (ſaid the poor Heart?) Could not you my Lord (ſince you find ſo great an alteration) be contented with twice coming in one Night; and the ſecond time to have even undone your ſelf, and

and almoſt me alſo; but that you muſt like a good natur'd and kind Husband, come a third time alſo, and expoſe your Body to the injury of the Cold, in ſo ſhort a Time: And you know, my Lord, That the Fair is to hold all the Year, excepting the Gander Month, which in the Superſtitious Times was then ſet a-part, and continued ſince, as a Relique; which in Time, we hope, will be thrown off.

And as for the Dog-days, which others and you muſt plead Antiquity to be excuſed from doing Duty in; it has been, and will be made appear, That though there be Dog-days, which have, and now may, it's granted, ſome pretend; yet there never was, or will be, Dog nights; So that it is but a vulgar Miſtake or Error, and not to be Pleaded or Embraced.

To all which Jocular Diſcourſe, the Lord reply'd, That granting the Fair laſted all the Year, yet this was but the ſecond Time of Viſiting her that Night; ſo that ſhe muſt be a in pleaſant Dream, and under Miſtake.

So the good and Innocent Lady, like the reſt of her Sex, in time of Extremity, never wanting an Excuſe, anſwer'd, I am now fully perſwaded, that ſince I was but in a ſweet Slumber, and as I judge muſt be miſtaken, it being only a fond Dream, which is always Fabulous. But the Lord beginning to pauſe upon it, and from what he had firſt heard, and gathered from the Circumſtances of Diſcourſe; he was perſwaded, and verily believed that it was more than a Dream; and that he had been abuſed by one in the Houſe. So keeping all cloſe, to avoid the ill Conſequences which ſuch a diſcovery might produce: Having laid a while, he left his Lady, and going into his own Chamber, could not reſt there long, ſo putting on his Breeches and a Gown, went into all his Male-Servant's Chambers that were

about

about him, making as he went a ſtrict inquiry with his Noſe in every Bed; for it ſeems the Lady was (as the Cuſtom was) well perfumed or Scented; at laſt he bethinks himſelf of one, which he had more than ordinary Grounds of Suſpicion, becauſe, beſides his Complexion, which never fails of ardent Inclination to the Female Sex, he was both an Handſome, and very Subtile Fellow, but he could not then tell his Chamber or Bed, but by chance groping up and down in the Dark, he found him by the Smell, and thence adjudged that that muſt be the Villain that had done him that Diſhonour; wherefore that he might be ſure to know him on the Morrow, he took out off his Pocket a pair of Sciſſers and ſnipped off one of his Whiskers; for then it was the Faſhion with all (as now with ſome Foreigners) to wear them; The Fellow being awake, knew very well his Lord had a deſign upon him, as to know him the next Day; to prevent which, as ſoon as his Maſter was gone, he inſtantly ſtarts up, and going into all his Fellow-Servants Chambers, when aſleep, cuts off from all the Men that Whisker which was on the ſame ſide of the Mouth that his was cut off, and ſo returns to his own Bed. The Men-Servants riſing early in the Morning, and ſeeing each others right Whisker gone, ſtood ſtaring upon one another, like ſo many Diſtracted Bethlemites, not knowing what to ſay, nor whom to accuſe: In ſhort, one which was known ſufficiently to be an Arch Wag, was ſuſpected; and thereupon ſome of the more paſſionate fell foul upon, and abuſed him moſt pitifully, whilſt others, namely the Female-Servants, for his good turns, took his part; by which means all were ingaged, the Weak-

eſt

eſt like to come to the Walls: At which noiſe, the Houſe being Alarm'd, the Lord and Lady ſending, yea, coming to ſee and know the Matter; were ſo ſurprized, *Firſt*, with the Strangeneſs of ſuch a Comical Sight; and *Secondly*, with the contrary Paſſions in one Company, to proceed from the ſame Cauſe, as to ſee Men Crying, and the Women a Laughing, without reſpect to either Lord or Lady: But their Lord commands immediately a Ceſſation of Arms in that Domeſtick, yet Bloody Civil War; to end the Controverſie, he Summons all to appear before him: And having cleanſed themſelves from the Blood, each Face by Fighting had contracted: they all appeared in the great Hall. Upon which both the Lord and Lady were poſſeſs'd with the ſame different Paſſions as their Servants were; for the Lord was in a Fury to ſee, and find out the Traytor that had abuſed him, as the Men Servants were: The Lady like to her Maids, an unluck Boy, fell into the greateſt Laughter Imaginable, to ſee them ſo diſguiſed. The firſt made a bitter Complaint of the others, of the Injury they had ſuſtained in the abuſe of their Beards. The She Defendants alledging, That they were innocent, and Guiltleſs of the Fact; And for their good Will in coming to help and aſſiſt, or Reſcue (as they thought) the Harmleſs and Innocent Boy, they were without Regard to their Sex, aſſaulted and abuſed by them: So in ſhort, (ſaid the Lord,) It was I that cut off one Whisker, which I have here, therefore whoſoever is the Owner thereof I will have his Head off too, for an irreparable Injury he hath done me: Look here, (ſaid the Lord) whoſe remaining Whisker matcheth this Colour, on him I will

be

be revenged. So Carrets falling down upon his Knees, begged Pardon, confeſſing ſilently to his Lord the whole Truth; and for his Witty endeavour of Concealment, he gave him Life, with the loſs only of his Ear, and Bell-ſtrings, or Danglers: And after his being Cured, his Lord delivered him to his Fellow abuſed Servants, which getting a Blanket, toſſed him ſo long in Revenge, that they had like to have toſſed his Bones out of his Skin, as well as him out of his Lordſhip's Service; the Maids at his Departure, ſetting the Dogs at him. So afterwards it was obſerved by the remaining Servants, that their Lord and Lady (excepting in Child bed) made never two Beds.

The Deceiver Deceived.

A Comely Young Lady, in or about London, which wanting Neceſſaries both for her Body and Houſe; held a long Conſultation with her ſelf; how ſhe might effect her Deſires, by a well contriv'd Credit: Having laid many Plots, but finding none of them firm enough to take; ſo as to build the Structure of her deſigned advantaged, till ſhe chanced to hit upon this Stratagem: She having a Daughter which like to her ſelf, was more Handſome than honeſt; and much more Witty than Wiſe: In ſhort, as the Mode is now, both Mother and Daughter was as right as my Leg, and as good as ever piſs'd. They conſulting together, concluded thus on their Project; That they muſt in the firſt place change (as the Cuſtom is for ſuch) their Lodging: But before they did it, the Dutiful Daughter was ſent to one of the Devil's Factors, which ſome call a Tally-

Tally-man, with whom she was acquainted, and took up all the Materials belonging to Man's Apparel, which she said was for her Husband, which being lately gone a long Voyage at Sea, was come Home up the River, to receive the Pay due to him for serving his Majesty so many Years; and telling the Story so plausibly, by expressing seemingly so much Joy for his Health and safe Arrival; and what a great Sum of Money he had to take: So that the Tally-man did not only trust her for a Suit of Man's Apparel, but also furnished her self with the most of the necessary things she wanted.

Being thus laded with Credit, home she went; but in a very little Time removing their Goods, for to accomplish their future Projects, into a Place which they thought more convenient. The Mother played the Changeling with her self, by throwing off her Female Weeds, and Cloathing her self in every respect like a Man: The Daughter like a Bagg ge, pretending to those that knew her, that her Mother was lately Dead in the Country; so she now being without Friends, and left to the wide World, knew not what Course to steer for want of some Advice. So working upon the Affections of diverse of the Neighbourhood, partly by her Face and notable smooth Tongue; telling them, That there was a young Man belong'd to the Sea, that lodg'd in the House, did Court her; but she being young, was fearful of ingaging without the Advice and Assistance of some Friends, in such a weighty Matter. Whereupon some of the Neighbours enquires into the Estate and Resolution of the Gentleman-Lodger, and finding them agreeable; asked him, if he had a Mind to, and would Matry the young Woman? Which he then protested, he loved before, and beyond any in the World, and would

if

if she and they pleased, be Married to her the next Week. Which being agreed upon, they were Married according to form, and spent that Day in great Jollity; and Night approaching, they went to Bed together: But as they well knew themselves without any hopes of reaping the sweet Enjoyment of a Marriage bed, but by the strength of Imagination, or a Dream. So having spent the Week in Rejoycing, they thought it time to Mind their Business: The Man-Mother being a Woman of an undaunted Spirit, and having a nimble Tongue, and quick Invention: Having learned when Abroad, to Bounce, Huff, Smoak, Drink, and Swear with any Bully-Ruffin, or G--dam ye in or about the Town; but at home among the Neighbourhood, always wearing the vigour of Temperance and Sobriety; carrying her self so craftily, that she in the least was not suspected to be any other than she seem'd: By which having gain'd the good Opinion of her Neighbours, she was resolv'd to try to make use of their Purses, pretending that she had a great deal of Money due from the Navy-Office, which she was in a short time to receive; and to confirm their Belief of it, shew'd them several Counterfeit Tickets; telling them, That at present she had great occasion for Money, and was willing to sell or Pawn the Tickets for half; which so wrought upon some, that they lent her Money upon them. So being pretty well Enriched with their Spoils, which she termed *Egyptian*; the new Married Couple privately Bilks both them and the Landlord, removing by Night to a House which they had taken at the other end of the Town; to prevent discovery, there set up a Nanny-house: The pretending Husband appearing in a plain Country Garb, which made all Comers take him (as so dress't)

for

for an innocent harmless Cuckold, behaving himself before People so simply, that every one judged him what he seem'd to be; and therefore at such convenient Times made Addresses to the young Wife, when the Husband one purpose went abroad, or was more than ordinary busie below: By which means they had a great Trade for a while. The supposed Husband or Mother, turning Pimp to her Daughter, and the Daughter when the Mother had a Mind to some of the sweet and short Pleasure, would unman and turn Bawd to her; but at last disobliging some Sparks, and Information was given, for keeping a Disorderly House, and they both brought before a Justice, which committed them both to the Famous College of Bridewell; where the Mother had taken her Degrees before: There the keeper frequenting their Country House, discovers the Cheating Metamorphosis, for which they were severely lashed.

The Contented Cuckold.

AN Unnaturalized Foreigner, not long ago took a Lodging in a Tradesman's House, which was grown none of the Richest, yet was Rich in having an Handsome Wife, which was never blemish'd in her Reputation: The Forreigner having a Months mind to her, Courted her in her Husbands absence very importunately and expensively, but all to no purpose; he proffering her fifty Guineas, if she would permit him to lie with her, which she in disdain refus'd: But being Poor, privately told her Husband what was offered her, and upon what Account; which scratching his Head, knew not what to do, Poverty perswading on the one Hand,

Hand, and Love hindering on the other, from accepting the proffer: At last (says he) *My dear, there is, and may be a contrivance to have the Money, and preserve thy Chastity too.* Which was thus, I'll pretend to go out of Town such a Day; then upon the Condition aforesaid, appoint him to come the Night following; and in the interim, Stout *Tom* the Tinker for a Reward, and I, will (being well Armed) lay under your Bed, and when he hath payed you the Gold, (which according to our *English* Custom you must have first) and when he is just coming to Bed, then we will crawl out and surprize him: Which was generally agreed upon; the Assignation being made, and he seeing the Husband on Horseback to go his Journey; yet fearing an Ambuscado, therefore, besides his Sword, carried a brace of Pistols charged with him.

So at Night entring the Room, Carressed her *Alamode de France*; and being very Fiery could suffer no delays: So giving her the Gold, desired her to make what haste she could to Bed, and he would immediately Follow.

So both being Undressed, he takes up his Sword and Pistols, and advanced towards her in Bed, which she seeing, asked him, What he meant! To which he reply'd, *Nothing Madam of Harm; only me Love to have all de Arms, my Sword by Side, me Pistols in me Hands, and de Dagger before, when we go to take a Citadel, or a Fort:* And laying down his Sword by his Bed side, he jumps into the Bed with his Pistols, lying them just over her Head; not to loose time, he Storm'd the Fort, and took it; and notwithstanding he was several times beaten out of the Breach which was made in the Assault, yet he boldly entered again, and took Possession.

The poor Cuckold and Tinker which lay under the Bed, could not but hear what was doing above,

yet

yet durſt not ſtir; nay, not ſo much as Whiſper. So Monſieur having gone throw ſtitch, being tired too boot, leaps out of Bed with all his Armour, having made uſe of nothing but the Dagger, whoſe fiery Edge being taken off, and well Drencht; he begins to dreſs himſelf; and having done, he calls to his reaking Miſs to come to him, and bring the Guineas; but ſhe pretending to be all in a Sweat, ſo that ſhe might catch her Death by coming, thinking thereby to have excuſed her ſelf; but Monſieur being reſolute, ſhe thought it ſafeſt to Obey; he clapping a Piſtol to her Breaſt, ſaying, Begar, Miſtreſs Biſh-fox, give me my Gold again, or Begar, if you will not for Love, you ſhall never have my Money: So taking the Guineas from her, he went Couragiouſly to his own Lodging: Then out crawl'd the Cuckoldly Coward with his Champion, each blaming the other, and both the Woman. Which reply'd, What would you have me to do, ſince he lay a Top of me? Well, well, Husband, by this covetous Stratagem of yours, you have finely made me a Whore, and that mighty Goliah a rank Coward, and your ſelf an unpardonable Cuckold.

Ingeni

Ingenij Fructus:

OR, THE

Cambridge Merry Jests:

THE

Only way to be WITTY.

I.

A Young Fellow in *Flanders* Sentenced to be Hang'd; being come to the Place of Execution, ſpied ſeveral of his former Companions amongſt the Moo, call'd to one, *Farewell Jack*, (ſays he) *we have often been Merry together over a Bottle, but now no more for we muſt part for ever*: Speaking ſomething like this to the others; but up ſteps the Prieſt, (the Hangman being near him) *Fie Sir* (ſays he to the Criminal) *I wonder you will talk with ſuch ill People as they are; 'Twas ſuch bad Company brought you to this Place.* Faith, Mr. Prieſt, ſays the Poor Man I was never in ſuch bad Company in my Life as I am now; (meaning the Prieſt and the Hangman).

II.

2.

Two Philoſophers (one a Native of Athens, and the other a Scythian born) Diſputing very hotly, fell at length into a Paſſion, the Grecian by way of Reproach, called the Scythian Barbarian; to which he made this pretty Reparrtee, My Country is a Diſgace to me; but thou art a Diſgrace to thy Country, being a Blockhead, tho' born at Athens.

3.

In Catalogina, a Prieſt came up to a Soldier that ſtood Centinel at the Caſtle-Gate, Brother, ſays the Prieſt to the Soldier, I wiſh you Peace. And I replyed the Soldier to the Prieſt, Wiſh you no Purgatory, and then we ſhall be both Beggars.

4.

A Phyſicians Lady at Amſterdam, ſeeing the Maſter that taught her two Daughters to Sing, called him, and praiſed her Daughter Betty mightily for Singing ſo Charmingly, that all the Company upon a high Feſtival was extreamly taken with her; but her Daughter Moll, tho' ſhe Sung her beſt, was not a-bit praiſed, which made the good Mother curious to know, what was the Reaſon of the vaſt Difference between the two Girls. Oh Madam! (ſays the Maſter) Madam Betty has very good Ears, but Madam Mary has none at all: At which ſhe called her Daughter Moll to her, and opened her Hood, Lord Sir? (replys ſhe) Why do you ſay ſo? ee here, my Daughter Moll has as good Ears s any Girl in Town.

5

At *Rome* there are two Statutes on which Paſquils and Lampoons with their Anſwers are uſually affixt; one call'd *Marforio*, the other *Paſquino*, a malicious Satyrical Fellow, put a very dirty naſty Shirt upon *Paſquino*, and a Libel upon *Marforio*; thus demanding, ſays *Marforio*, *How now Brother* Paſquino? *How come you to have ſuch a Damn'd dirty Shirt, that us'd to be ſuch a Spruce Fellow?* Paſquino (by another Libel he had clapt on him) anſwered, *Why truly my Laundreſs is made a Princeſs.* The Pope juſt then having advanced his own Siſter (who was before but a Laundreſs) to the Dignity of a *Roman* Princeſs. Upon the aforeſaid Statue was alſo the following Lampoon or Paſquil, call it which you pleaſe.

The K. of France *is the moſt Chriſtian King*, Marforio.
The King of France *is not a Chriſtian*,
Therefore he can't be moſt Chriſtian. Paſquino.

6.

At *Bruſſels* a Pick-pocket was Sentenced to be Whipt on a Scaffold very ſeverely; the poor Rogue thinking to have Favour from the Executioner, paum'd him with a Couple of Duckatoons, about Eleven *Engliſh* Shillings value, the Fellow for all that laid on moſt unmercifully: The Patient calling to him, and turning his Head, ſaying, *Be gentle to me for the Money I gave you.* But all in Vain, for he re doubled the Blows. The Fellow (when at Liberty) plotted a Revenge, which he thus (a little too far) effected; ſpying one Day in a Crowd the Raſcal that Whipp'd him, he thruſts into his Pocket ſome Money he had ſtolen out of another

ther Mans, and presently informs the Person robb'd, That that Man did it, for he saw him; he was taken, Try'd, and Sentenc'd to dye. This Fellow offered his Service to Hang him, which was accepted; and just as he was turning him off, he whispered him, *Don't you remember how damnably you jeerk'd me, tho' I gave you Money to spare my Skin? 'Twas I that Stole that Money you are Hanged for, and put it into your Pocket.* At which Words, the Fellow would have spoken to the Magistrates, but the Hangman did his Job; and so prevented his Prating: The Magistrates ask'd him what the Fellow said? He only asked me Forgiveness, replys the Executioner.

7.

The Duke *D'alva* being sent Ambassador from the King of *Spain*, to the Court of *Portugal*, was received at some distance from *Lisbon* by a Person of Quality, and that King's Coaches, into which the Duke was no sooner got, and the Compliments over, but he asked the *Portugues* Nobleman, if the Court of *Portugal* was very Fine? Yes, Sir, (replys he) *the finest in the World. For there are Sixty as fine Men as you are Forty such as I am, Six like the King my Master.*

8.

In *France* a Dog running at a Soldier, and he having a Pike in his Hand, run him thro' and kill'd him: The Master of the Dog ask'd him, Why he did not strike him with the blunt end of his Pike? *So I would* (said he) *if he had run at me with his Tail.*

9.

A Peaſant coming to Paris with his Aſs laden with Salt; the Beaſt ſtumbled, and the Driver beat him ſoundly for it: A Courtier paſſing by, chid him for it; and ſeeing him lay on thicker, ſaid, Sirrah, deſiſt, or I'll break your Pate: Upon which he did, but no ſooner was the Gentleman gone, but the Peaſant mauld off the Aſs; Ye Dog you (ſays he) I little thought you had a Friend at Court.

10.

A Dutchman being well Equipt, and his Breeches ſtrongly lin'd with Gilt (called Money) his Father bid him go make Love to ſuch a Lady of Fortune and Quality, as he directed him to: He being a little baſhful or Sheepiſh, wandred up and down the whole Day, without waiting upon her; and towards the Evening e'en made his Grandmother a Viſit, where he was better acquainted: Oh my dear Keint! (which is Child) ſays the old Gentlewoman hugging the Lad about the Neck) Where haſt thou been? So he told her the whole Adventure. Come on (ſays ſhe) you know I am poor, e'en give me ſome of thy Money, and ſtay all Night and be with me: Which he did, and at his return home, his Father ask'd him, What ſucceſs? So he told him the whole Truth; and that he had lain all Night with his Grandmother. How now Sirrah (replies he) how durſt thou do ſo. Why Sir? (ſays Boberkin) Why ſhould not I lie with your Mother, as well as you lie with mine?

A *Spaniſh* Ship being caſt away on the Coaſt of *Scotland*; the poor Tars half drowned, eſcaping to Shore, made up to the *Scots*; the People tho' none of the beſt natur'd in the World, yet they received the poor Marriners kindly, and bid them Welcome, tho' having in each Family but one Bed, and that none of the beſt; they however each took one *Spaniard* for a Gueſt, and decently laid him on the Wives left Hand, and ſhe in the Middle: As great as the Danger was the Tar had eſcaped, 'twas ſoon forgot; for being warm a Bed, he began to be buſie with the *Scotchman's* Wife *Moggy*, the Husband perceiving it, What *Moggy* (quo he) is the Man moving thee? Why do'sn't ſpeak to him? *Gwad Faith Man, I can't ſpeak* Spaniſh.

12.

A *Daniſh* Nobleman fam'd for Drinking hard, and being in Company with a King, and Tipling it about briskly; a certain Duke of that Princes Court came to the Door, and ask'd to ſpeak with the *Dane*: Who is it? ſays the *Dane*. The Duke of ——— *Buh*, (replys the *Dane*) He may e'en go about his Buſineſs; I'll Drink with none but Kings to Night, it may be Dukes may go down with me to Morrow.

13.

A *German* Prince having Drank very highly one whole Day, and being very Sick the next Morning: His Jeſter waiting upon him, ask'd his Highneſs, how he did? He was pleaſed to anſwer, Truly he had made himſelf Sick with Drinking too much. Puh, (ſays the Fool) If that be all, I'll be your Doctor: *Why? what will you*

do to me? (replys the Prince) E'en ſays the Jeſter adviſe you to take a Hair of the ſame Dog, and ſo on with a Continuandos, then ye may be Drunk for a Month together: *And what then,* [ſays his Serenity] *Why then,* [adds the Jeſter] *you will ſoon be as great a Fool as I am.*

14.

In *Burgundy* a Gentleman being in his Vineyard, eſpied a whole Drove of Hogs there, which threw him into a Paſſion; and made him Swear that thoſe Hogs belong'd to ſome Cuckoldly Rogue or Raſcal: Forthwith bidding his Servant turn them out. Hold Sir, (ſays his Man) they are your Worſhip's own Hogs: Damn me for a Fool (ſays his Maſter) what have I call'd my ſelf? Why Sir, (replys the Servant) 'tis not yours, but my Miſtreſſes Fault.

15.

Guſtavus Adolphus King of *Sweden*, attacking a very ſtrong Town with a very ſmall Handful of Men; the beſieged in Deriſion hung out a Gooſe for him to Shoot at; but ſoon to their Coſt, finding that Breach was made in their Works, wide enough for a Storm, and their Town a Fire in ſeveral places: They beat a Parley, and demanded to know the King's meaning? His Majeſty ſent them Word, his deſign was only to roaſt their Gooſe.

16.

That Excellent Poet Virgil, was ſo high in *Auguſtus Cæſars* favour for his great Learning and Wit, that he daily received an Allowance

of

of Bread from the Emperor's Table; who one Day being private, and very pleasant with the Poet; ask'd him who he thought was his Father? *Indeed Sir* [answers he] *I believe he was a Baker.* Why a Baker, says *Cæsar?* Replys *Virgil*, *Because you give me nothing but Bread:* Upon which the Emperor soon turn'd the Bread into Money.

17.

That Celebrated Painter *Apalles*, having drawn the Picture of *Alexander* the Great on Horseback, and presenting it one Day to his Majesty; he seem'd not extraordinarily taken with it, nor did he praise it [tho' excellently well done] to that degree that the Painter expected; which baulk'd him: So he desir'd a live Horse might be brought to him, who no sooner being come, but he began to paw the Picture, and Neigh; *I see*, says *Apalles*, *This Horse understands Painting better than* Alexander.

18.

The late Queen of *Spain* having nothing left that was *French* about her but two Parakeets; the Dutches of *Fierra Nueva* her Groom of the Stool, in meer spight one Day kill'd them both, when her Majesty was abroad Hunting with the King, which the Queen finding at her Return into her Royal Apartment, sat down and Wept: In the Evening the Dutchess coming [as 'tis the custom in that Court to Kiss her Majesty's Hand] at the Chought, She was pleas'd to give her a swinging Box on the Ear; the Dutchess affronted at that, flew into the City, and rais'd four Hundred of her Family, [most great People] and brou.ht them

to the Court, to go with her to the King, to make her Complaint againſt the Queen, which ſhe had no ſooner done; but the King in anger ſends for the Queen; who being in ſight, the King ſaid, *Senora Madam*: The Queen knowing his Mind, ſtopt him, and ſaid, *Senor & un-nero jo* Sir, it was a Fit of a Longing Woman (tho' ſhe was not with Child) which made me ſtrike the Dutcheſs, which ſo pleas'd the King, who believed it, that he told the Dutcheſs, If ſhe were not ſatisfied with that, the Q. ſhould give her Eleven more; and make them up a Dozen.

17.

The ſame Prince ſometime before Miſſing the Queen out of Bed one Night, called for her and asked, Where ſhe was? Her Majeſty anſwered, Feeling about for my Dog. Fie *Madam*, ſays the King, come to Bed; Is it not a Shame for the Queen of *Spain* to be groping about in the Dark for an ugly *French* Dog?

18.

A *Neapolitan* King had a moſt beautiful Mule preſented him; many of the Courtiers praiſed it for a very curious Creature, ſome admiring his Head, others his Limbs, one looked in his Mouth, and the Jeſter took up his Tail, at which the King and Court Laughed: *Why?* ſays the Fool in a Paſſion, *I think I was more in the right than he that looked in the Mules Mouth: For we ought not to look a Gift Horſe or Mule in the Mouth.*

19.

An old Lawyer of the *Hague* had a very handſome

43.

A Faulkner, who was a Lusty, Brisk, Vigorous Fellow, meeting one Morning early an old Woman in a Wood, had a great Mind to have a Bout with her: Alas! Sir, says the old Woman, you are but in Jest. No, replys he, but you shall see that I am in earnest; with that he laid her down, with her Bum upon a Mole-hill, and whisk'd her purely; up she got, made him a fine Courtesy, and thank'd him, and prayed to God to bless him; for truly she had not had so good a Breakfast, these twenty Years past.

44

A pleasant Gentleman meeting a young Woman in the Street without Stockings; says he, Those Stockings have lasted you a great while, and have never a Hole in them yet; when they have, if you'll come to me, I will go to a Shop and buy you a new Pair: Why then Sir, replys the Woman, you must e'en do it now, for I have got a great Hole at the top of my Stockings; and pulling up her Coats, says she, Look ye here, is not it true?

45.

A Woman upon the Way where many People past, was making a heavy Moan, and crying aloud; a Tender hearted Gentleman, who knew her, call'd her by her Name, Well, says he, *Mary Fish*, what ails you, that you are so full of Grief? Indeed Sir, replys she, a heavy Misfortune has befallen me too Day, which if it happen'd to you, would have troubled you more

more *What is't? What is't? Says the Gentleman: Alas! says the Wanton Baggage, I had two Stones (meaning her Husbands who lay with her) taken from my Belly this Morning, which if they had been taken from yours, would have made you cry'd worse than I do now.*

46.

A Gentlewoman's back Itching, desired a Gentleman (a Gallant of hers) to scratch it; which he did, but his Nails being too long, She cry'd out, O Lord you hurt me: Pray rub it with your Hand, which he did, and pleased her so well, that she told him, he could rub better than Scratch.

47.

A Gentleman hearing a Fish Woman cry about the Streets, Come buy my dainty Barrel-Cod; ask'd his Mistress who heard it, Which was best? barrel-Cod, or breeches-Cod? Replys she, both in their Season; barrit-Cod at board, and breeches-Cod in bed.

48.

A boy (as he pretended) was very Sick, would needs go to bed; and living with his Grandmother, the good old Gentlewoman took compassion on him, thinking him to be really very ill, so she sent for a Doctor, who prescribed strong Doses for the Lad, but he would not take any of them; so the good Lady asked him, If he would have a caudle, or Sugar-Sops? both and you will Grand-mother, replys the boy, as Sick as he was; which is biggest will be best.

49

49.

A Gentleman giving his Son diverſe Inſtructions amongſt others, he charged him always to keep Money in his Pocket. Sir, replys the Youngſter, I don't remember any ſuch Advice given by Solomon to his Son: That may be, ſays the Old Dad, but I am ſure amongſt all that Wiſe King's Proverbs there is not a better.

50.

A Court Fool (as they called him, though a very cunning one) having plaid the blad with his Tongue, and diſcovered ſome Practices againſt the State, which he had heard whiſpered up and down: The King was in Choler, and commanded the poor Fool to be Racked to fetch it all out of him. So when the Tormenters came to him, Pray Gentlemen, ſays he, was the King in Earneſt? I can ſcarce believe it: The Tormentors told him, he would when he felt it. I pray, ſays he, have any of you felt it, to tell me what it is? No, Sir, ſays they, but ſome of your Fellow Courtiers can tell you, they uſe ſomething like it to mend their Shapes, 'twill make you ſo ſtraight and ſlender in your Wits, muſt I be drawn ſlender in my Waſte?

51.

A Country Gentleman asking a Courtier what was the greateſt Sin at Court? Why truly Sir, replys he. To ſpeak Truth, a Thing not much in Faſhion here.

A *Dutch* Gentleman juſt going into the Rack, found himſelf very dry, and deſired he might be permitted to Drink ſome Wine, as well to quench his Thirſt, as to Fortifie him againſt the approaching Pain: It was granted, and a Bottle brought, of which he drank the greateſt part. Hold Sir, ſays the Executioner, you have no Meaſure of your ſelf. Replys the poor Criminal. What do you talk of Meaſure, you'll take Meaſure of me with a Vengeance, by and by.

43

An Eminent Vintner in *London* having Married a Light Lady, began to be very uneaſie and curious, and having obſerved how Matters mov'd, he caught one of his Drawers a Bed with his Wife, of which he ſeemed to take little notice, but went immediately to his Father-in-law, and told him what had happened in his Family. Hah, ſays the Old Gentleman, 'tis a bad Job; but however, here is a Hundred Pound for you, even be go home and be quiet; her Mother uſed to ſerve me ſo, and the Daughter will leave it when She is Old.

54

A Topping Meal-Man in *Smithfield*, who had a very Handſome Wife, that was mightily given to kiſſing in his abſence, one Day he had taken his leave of her, to go to St. *Albans* to buy Corn; he returned back [having forgot ſomething] in an Hour or two after he ſet out: An Apothecary of the Neighbour-hood, who was a Bed with the Meal-man's Wife, hearing the Husband's Voice, Whipt out of Bed, and hid

hid himself, but left his Breeches behind him upon the Bed; the Meal-man coming up, seiz'd upon them, and found some Gold in one Fob, and a Watch in t'other, both which he took out, and went his Way; but as he past thro' his own Shop, he was in a damn'd Fury, and Swore and Curst, but nam'd no Body: Some Neighbours hearing him, asking him what was the Matter? Why, truly says he, A Damn'd Dog has Pist in my Entry, and if I could catch him, I would beat him till he Stunk again.

55

A Gentleman having crossed the Water from the *Temple* to the Old *Barge House*, intending to take the Air in St. *Georges Fields*, as he past, he saw a pretty Woman look out of a Window; and being desirous of her Acquaintance, was accordingly gratified: And after a Dialogue or two had past between them, they were very Intimate and indeed Familiar too; and having agreed upon the Matter, they went to the Old Sport, the Gentleman being well hung, [as 'tis commonly call'd] or well made [chuse which you will,] and the Lady a little Strait, he put her to some Pain, which was soon over. Lord Sir, says she, you are a Strange Man, I never met with such a one in my Life, you may be compared to our New Steeple, and I to our old Church [call'd *Christ Church*] for one is a great deal too big for t'other, though it is not usual for a Steeple to be too big for a Church.

56

A Parson coming to a Witty, but Wanton Gentleman for his Advice, what he should do with

with his Parishioners, who were ever thwarting and plaguing him, that he was e'en weary of his Life, and wished himself from among them. Why Faith (says the Gentleman) I am not good to advise with in such Matters; but if you will be ruled by me, I would have ye Preach up false Doctrine, and so damn them all, and that is a quick way of Revenge.

57.

Some sawcy Priests being in mixt Company, were calling themselves Ministers of Jesus Christ and Embassadors from God, and Cœlestial Monitors, and Heavenly Lights to direct the World, and lead them in the true Paths of Bliss and future Felicity. Ah, says a pleasant Gentleman that sat by, You are all very pretty Fellows I must confess; you do resemble (in my Opinion) Lights: I have a very dark Entry at home, I wish I had one of you to hang there: Nay indeed, I think you should all be disposed after that manner.

58.

A Gentleman in a Town in *Hartfordshire*, being much in Debt, was obliged to keep the House close: A Bailiff who had been promised a great Reward to take that Gentleman, having made several Attempts in vain to snap him, at last resolv'd upon one that he thought could not fail; so pretending himself in distress, came by the Gentleman's Parlor-Window, (which was next the Street) and where he sat Writing every Day, and pulling out of his Pocket a Halter, made a Noise, and seemed as if he intended to hang himself therewith; a Grind-

stone

ſtone before the Door, upon which he got up, and threw the Rope over a good Bough of the Tree, and faſtned it, and then put his Head in, concluding the Gentleman would whip out, and ſo he ſhould Arreſt him; but as the Devil would have it, the Grindſtone which ſtood firm like a Rock for him to get up, tumbled down as ſoon as ever the Halter was about his Neck; the innocent unwary Gentleman ſeeing what paſt, ſallied out to cut the Rope, and ſave the Man; but the Bailiff's Follower lying in Ambuſcade, ſnap'd the Gentleman as ſoon as ever he peept out, and carried him off, and let his Maſter Hang, who carried the Jeſt too far; and when the Gentleman told the Bailiff's Follower, That his Maſter would ſoon be Dead if he did not cut him down: Let him be Damn'd (ſaid he) I have got my Prize; and I ſhall have the Reward, and my Maſter's Place too.

59.

A Lady of Quality of the Court, coming into the City to buy ſome Silks and Rich Brocades of an Eminent Mercer; when ſhe came into the Shop, ſhe eſpied four or five little Children playing together; ſhe went to them, and ſtroaked them, and ſaid, They were pretty Rogues; and asked the Mercer, if they were his? Truly Madam, (replys he) I can't tell, my Wife knows beſt. Indeed I ſuſpect they are not; they are too pretty, and look more like Courtiers and Noblemen's Children, and I am apt to believe they may be ſo. For thoſe Sparks come often into the City, to viſit our Dames, and take them Abroad with them, and treat them; But however, the Matter is not much,

for

for those Gentlemen are as well serv'd at Home. *How is that, says the Dutchess? Why (replys the citizen) their Grooms and Coachmen, are at the same time getting Children for them.*

60.

A Nobleman having kept a Mistress many Years, who like a cunning Baggage had Wheedled him out of the best part of his Estate, which was settled upon her; (which I say was a rare piece of craft) for those Wanton Ladies like Witches are seldom Rich, and made the Old Blade, now and then have uneasie Moments: She had also exhausted all the best Blood out of his Veins; She grew weary of him, and he of her. He being one Day in a very great Passion, came to take his leave of her, and Solemnly bid her Farewell Poverty, Old Age, Flannel and Brandy; for now thou art good for nothing.

61

A Gentleman being in company with some Ladies who talk'd very Amorously, felt an odd sort of Motion in his Breeches: So he whisper'd one of the Ladies in the Ear, and told her that his Fusee was Cock'd. Is it so, says she? Then you may Fire at me if you please; I'll stand ye. I am not afraid of your Flints, although there be two of them.

62

A *Dutchman* having long addres's'd his Maid to let him enjoy her, and been often repulsed, almost

almoſt diſpaired effecting it; but going into a Cellar to Taſt a Tub of old Hock, he had laid by for ſome Choice Friends, to come and quaff off; he knock'd againſt the Head, and finding it ſound Hollow, he perceiv'd 'twas all drawn out; ſo charging his Maid with it, (who happened to be then in the Cellar) ſhe confeſſed ſhe had drank it all her ſelf at Times. Well, ſays he, if you won't let me now do what I have ſo often deſir'd; I will tell your Miſtreſs, ſhe ſhall turn you away, and make you pay for it beſides. Upon which the Wench conſented; ſo he laid her down upon the empty Cask, and was Exerciſing her; at that very Minute his Wife call'd to him, and asked him, where he was? and what he was doing? He anſwered, and told her, he was in the Cellar, and that he would come up preſently, he was only ſtopping the Leak, which he had now found, at which all his old Hock run out.

63

A Beggar uſing to go always Naked, was ask'd by a Tender-hearted Charitable Creature How he could bear the Cold in Frosty Weather? Oh, ſays he, I am Face all over.

64

A Gentleman ſent his Son to School, to one of the Top Maſters of the Kingdom, who really took a great deal of Pains with him, but in Vain; and finding 'twas impoſſible to make any Learning enter into him, brought him home to his Father, and told the Old Gentleman what a Block head he was, that it was Money and Time thrown away upon him;

therefore adviſed him to put him out to ſome Trade. All which troubled the Dad extreamly, for he had conceived great hopes of that Boy: ſo he preſt the School Maſter to take him back again, and try what he could do; if he had Learning enough to make a Parſon, he did not care; for (he thought) that was the beſt Trade in the World.

65.

An Eminent States-Man of Holland, being accuſed at his return from his Embaſſy, at the Court of France, of not having followed his Inſtructions: And being upon his Tryal in open Court, the Atturney-General charged him [moreover] with ſaying to ſeveral People, That ſuch and ſuch (naming them) great Men among the States (then at the Tryal) were Rogues, Raſcals, and Traytors to their Country. To which the Embaſſador (with great Submiſſion and Reverence) mildly deſired, That he might be allowed the Favour to anſwer then to that very Point, which ſhould be ſhort, (the reſt he would leave to his Advocate) which was granted, My Lords, ſays he, 'tis impoſſible that ſuch a thing ſhould be proved upon me; for I take God to witneſs I never ſaid in my Life; that thoſe great Men among the States [now preſent] were Rogues, Raſcals, or Traitors to their Country; tho' I muſt confeſs, I have thought ſo a Thouſand Times.

66.

A plain Country Woman preſſing hard to ſee the King, then on his Royal Progreſs, and juſt come out of his Coach at *Northampton*; when ſhe came cloſe, and had well viewed his Majeſty:

jesty: By my Troth, says she, (aloud) I have a Handsomer Man to my Husband. The King over-hearing her, turned about, saw, and came to her, and said, You may have a Handsomer Man to your Husband; but pray do not speak so loud, for I am upon my Preferment.

67.

Another Woman of the same Cut, and Cunning, labouring hard to get thro' the Crowd, to come very near to the King; and having cast her Eyes round about His Majesty's Person, and finding it to be but slender, and of small stature. Oh Lord! (says she) speaking a little too high, after her Country manner, What great Things God can bring about by small means!

68.

A brisk mettled Lady, being Indicted of High Treason, against the Person of the late King *James*; and being acquitted, there appeared nothing material against her: as she was going out of the Court, she mutter'd extreamly, and made some smart Reflections upon the Lord Chief Justice *Jefferies*, before whom she was try'd. You Woman, (says my Lord) what's that you say? My Lord, (says she) I have had hard Measure to be accused of such an horrid Crime, and exposed, when I was altogether Innocent of the matter. Go, go [says *Jefferies*] about your business, and prate so to your Husband when you come home. You are mistaken Sir, [says she] I dare as little prate to my Husband, as you dare prate to your Wife.

69.

An English *Gentleman being told that a* Scotch *Nobleman was to be Banished (for being in a Conspiracy against King* William*) to* France*: Puh, says he, 'tis but a Jest. Why so Sir? says the* Scotch-man*; do you think the Government is in Jest and they won't do it? No, replys the* English-man*, I don't deny but they may do it: But I say, 'tis a Jest to banish a Man from* Scotland *to* France*; from a Bad Country to a Better.*

70

A Quacker (a cunning Sharp Fellow) brought up and conversant in Business, was ask'd by some great Men, What would be the best and most effectual way to Ruin the Scotch-East India *Company? Why verily Friend (reply'd the Quacker) I know but one Way, and that is to send our Lords of the Admiralty thither, and make them theirs.*

71.

A Scotch *Gentleman being ask'd by an* English-man*, Why they served the King so ill in their business of their* East-India *Company? one Answer'd very briskly, Sir, indeed it must be confess'd, the King of* England *was ill served, but the King of* Scotland *very well served.*

72.

A Gentleman coming to a Lawyer's Chamber in the Temple, seeing a Servant near the Door, ask'd him, if that was Mr. Allen's *Chamber, which he*

repeating

repeating two or three Times, and the Fellow making no Answer, he was in a Passion, and going to lift up his Cane: Sir says the Servant, I am a little thick of hearing. Ay, replys the Gedtleman, and thick in understanding too.

73.

Gondamoc *the famous* Spanish *Ambassador, when in* England, *had a Mind to view the Country: and being on his Journey, and preety far East, near the Borders of* Cornwal; *the Roads were Stony and Bad; which to avoid, his Coach going a little out of the way, stuck in a Swamp; one of the Attendants seeing a Country Fellow at Work at some distance, rod up to him, and desired his help, telling him the Ambassador's Coach was so fast, it must be out out with a Spade. And there says the Country Fellow it may stick for me, for I shan't meddle with State Affairs.*

74

A Gentleman visiting a Lady; took up a piece of Fuller's Earth, which lay in her Window: Sir, (says she) you little think what that is good for: Yes, Yes, replys he, to get Spots out of Cloaths. Ay but, says she, 'tis an excellent thing for those that are Gauled with Riding. I hope Madam, says he, you are never Gauled with Riding. No Sir, replies she, nor with being Rid neither.

75

A *Irish* Gentleman being in *England*, receiv'd

a Letter from his Sister then in *Ireland*; In which she told him, she was going to be Married to such an One, naming him; but was resolv'd her Nuptials should not be Celebrated till his return, desiring the Honour of his presence; to which she prest him mightily, and that he would make haste: For truly, adds she, You know dear Brother, Time is very precious with me, and I cannot tarry.

76.

A great Projector and Engineer, being in a Company with some Gentlemen at a Tavern, in the Evening: The Master of the House [to oblige his Guests] brought out the remainder of a Surloin of Roast-Beef, almost bare, being picked a little too close: Says one of the Gentlemen, Let the Maid separate the Bones, and then we may come at a little Meat. Says the Engineer, I have got an Engin at Home for that, which made all the Company laugh, and himself blush, for being so forward a Fool.

77.

A Poet who was very low in the Pocket, was extreamly provok'd by one in Company, who had affronted him, by some severe Reflections cast upon him; began to Swear and Curse: At last [says he] May this be your Fate; may you have many Debtors, and all like me, and then you will be as poor as I am.

78.

William the Conqueror being Corpulent, and there upon a little uneasie to himself; was re-

solv'd

folved by a thin and ſlender Diet to reduce himſelf. The *French* King hearing of it, ask'd, When his Lying in would be over? Which being told the Conqueror; He ſent that King Word, That as ſoon as ever he was Church'd, would make him a Viſit, and light ſuch Fires in *France*, that ſhould not eaſily be extinguiſhed. He was as good as his Word, for as ſoon as he was able to mount a Horſe, he invaded *France*, and burnt ſeveral Towns, ravaged Plundered where ever he came.

79.

Juſt after the Diſcovery of the Damn'd Deſign, and Barbarous Plot, to Aſſaſſinate King *William* the Third; two honeſt Gentlemen being at a Tavern together, were talking of it; and one ſaid, What a baſe and ungenerous Act it would have been, to deſtroy an Enemy ſo brave, after ſuch a Butcher-like manner! Ay, ſays t'other, 'tis true; but it ſeems it was to make way for an old Popiſh Bigot; and 'tis reported, he is really Embark'd in, or to come; then we ſhall have nothing but Fire and Faggot. Hold, ſays t'other, if it ſhould be ſo, I hope we ſhall have a Bruſh firſt.

80

A Pleaſant Lady told a Traveller of her Acquaintance, with whom ſhe was very Familiar, [upon his demanding, What News?] That the King had given the *Tower* of *London* away. To whom, ſays he? To my Arſe Anſwers ſhe, and you ſhall be the Lieutenant.

81

One that was very deep in Debt to several Citizens *of* London, *was always in Pain when he was there: It happen'd as he walked along one Evening, his Cloak catch'd hold of a Tenter-Hook, which fear'd him, and made him ask immediately, at whose Suit? thinking he had been Arrested.*

82

Once a Dunce void of Learning, but full of Books, flouted a Libraryless Scholar with these Words, Salve Doctor, sine Libris. *But the next Day, the Scholar coming into the Jeers Study, crouded with Books,* Salvete Libri, *said he,* sine Doctore.

83

A pleasant Country Fellow, told his Companions, That he could have what Weather he pleas'd: At which they Laughed, and said, 'Twas impossible; for the Planets, as they had heard, govern'd the World and the Weather too. You are Fools, says he, For what Weather pleases God, pleases me; and now I hope I have made it out.

84

Some Scotchmen *being in Company with some* English, *they began to Banter and Jeer one another. Says one of the* Englishmen, *was not he a great Rogue that sold his King? (meaning* Charles *the First, who fled to the* Scots *for Protection) Yes, says the* Scotch-man; *but he was a greater that gave the Money. Adds another, but he was the greatest of all that Cut off his Head.*

85

A light Houſe-wife Married one, whoſe name was *Not*, whom ſhe Cuckolded and Burried: At her Death, a Scholar made theſe Verſes on her;

Not *a maid*, Not *a wife*, Not *a Widow*, Not *a whore*
She was not theſe, and yet ſhe was all Four.

86.

A Woman very much addicted to Tipling, and having a Cup of a large Size, out of which ſhe uſually Drank, and in which ſhe never left a drop: Her Husband chid her for it; and ſaid, it was not decent for a Women to Drink ſo great a quantity. She told him, That the Virgin Mary *being at the bottom of the Cup, ſhe could not but admire her beautiful Face: Upon which he broke the Cup, and bought her another ſomething leſs, with the Devil painted at the bottom of it: However ſhe always ſwallowed up all the Liquor in it; and being re-premanded again by her Husband, for her exceſſive Drinking. Oh, ſays ſhe, I do it becauſe the foul Fiend ſhould not have one Drop of it.*

87

A Lady found fault with a Gentleman's Dancing, ſaying, That he ſtradled to much. To which he replo'd, Madam, if you had that betwixt your Legs, that I have between mine, you would ſtraddle much more and wider.

88

Amongſt ſome Women that were chaffing of their Husbands, truly ſaid one, My Husband is the Luquorſh Man in the World; for I

had a ſmall Pot of Honey came from *Hampſhire* from a dear Friend, and I can no ſooner turn my Breech upon him, but his Noſe will be in it.

89.

One Eſquire *Stewtly*, a younger Brother of a good Family in *Devonſhire*; having ſpent his Patrimony, he fell upon Projects, the uſual refuge of Bankrupts; and firſt pitch'd upon the Peopleing of *Florida*, then lately diſcovered in *America*, and was ſo Confident and Ambitious, [without bluſhing] to tell Queen *Elizabeth* of *England*, That he had rather be a Sovereign of a Molehill, than be higheſt Subject to the greateſt King in Chriſtendom: Adding moreover, That he was ſure he ſhould be a Prince before his Death. I hope [ſays the Queen] I ſhall hear from you when you are Seated in your Principality: Yes, Madam, Anſwers *Stewtly*, I will Write to you, In what Language, Demands the Queen? In the Stile of Princes, returns he; To our Dear Siſter.

90.

What a ſad Condition am I in? Said a Fellow that was ſet in the Stocks; for I can ſee over the Wood, and under, and through the Wood, but as yet cannot get out of the Wood.

91.

King *Charles* the Second, after the Defeat of his Army in the Battle of *Worceſter*, being forced to ſcower for it, found Friends to help him off, after he had Skulk'd ſome Days in the Royal-Oak; and getting on Board a ſmall Veſſel, in a Creek,

Creek, near *Haſtings* in *Suſſex*, he thought himſelf pretty ſecure: Being upon the Deck, one of the Sea men ſmoak'd Tobacco in his Majeſty's Face, and ſtared upon him a little more than ordinary: Upon which Mr. *Manſel* the Maſter chid him ſeverely. Why, ſays the ſurly Tar, may not I look upon that Gentleman, when a Cat may look upon a King.

92.

An *Engliſh* Gentleman meeting a *Scotch* Pedlar upon the Road; ask'd him ſeveral Queſtions of *Scotland*, and other Matters, ſome relating to his Trade; was extreamly pleas'd with the ſharp and ſenſible Anſwers the Pedlar made: which occaſioned him to ſay, That he had met with a great many ſhrew'd cunning Fellows of his Country-men abroad, up and down the World. Yes Sir, [ſays he] that may very well be; for there is none but Fools that ſtay at Home.

93.

A Foreigner being ask'd, how he lik'd *Scotland*. Why truly [ſays he] the Country is too good for thoſe that live in it, and too bad for others to be at the charge to Conquer it.

94.

An *Engliſh* Woman being Married to a *Scotch* Man, and not agreeing well together, but very frequently Battelling it, was very uneaſie, and often wiſhed ſhe had been Hang'd rather than to have been tyed to that Sowr Dog of a *Scot*; and ſaid, That a Cobler, if an *Engliſh* Man, would have made a happier Husband for her.

her. Ay, says a Neighbour of hers, that may be; but I thought you had had a great Bargain, and a good Jointer with him. Yes, replys she, I had a *Scotch* Jointure. Pray Madam, says t'other what is that? Why truly, a *Scotch* Jointure (adds she) is a Ragged pair of Breeches, a Barril of *Scotch* Oat-meal, and a Tub of *Scotch* Eggs; and that is the Jointure I had with my Damn'd Dog of an Husband.

95

A young Lady being at Pancras Wells, to drink the Mineral Waters; and being in a pleasant Humour, took a Mug into her Hand to draw some of that purging Liquor for herself, says she before a pretty Knot of Beau's, I'll try all these Cocks, and which runs best and longest I'll stick too, and that alone shall be mine.

96

A brisk young Spark, taking his Mistress abroad in the merry Month of *May*, into the Fields, he gave her three or four Green Gowns, and ask'd her, how she lik'd them? Very well, replys she, they are very comfortable to a Maid in my condition, troubled a little with the Green Sickness. Will you have any more Madam, says he, seeing it pleases you so mightily. No I thank ye Sir, adds she, I have enough, but you may have more if you please.

97

A lusty Jolly Lady, being Courted by a little pretty dapper Gentleman, refus'd to have him; and being ask'd her Reason: She answer'd, she

could

could not abide such a Whipper Snapper; for she should always fancy him (when in her Arms) like a Sweet-bread upon a Breast of Veal.

98

Another much of the same Humour, scorn'd a Man of a small Stature; and said, Truly she would not have him if he were worth a Milion of Gold; for what would the People say of her when Married? She being a Swanker, and he such a creeping Creature; but that there was a Fly upon a Buttock of Beef.

99.

A Knot of Gossips being got together, one said, She admir'd little Men: So don't I, says another; for I am of Opinion, the bigger the better: Ay, says a Third, I should be of your Mind too, if Nature always held a Proportion.

100

One was wont to say, That in *Europe* there were neither *Scholars* enough, *Gentlemen* nor *Jews* enough: To which one reply'd, That of all three, there were rather too great a Plenty than scarcity. Whereupon it was declar'd, if there were *Scholars* enough, so many would not be Double or Treble Benefic'd: If enough of *Gentleman*, then so many Peasants would not be reckoned among the Gentry for *Gentlemen*: And if *Jews* enough, so many *Christians* would not profess Usury.

101 The

101.

The Queſtion being asked, Which were the greateſt Wonders in the World? It was anſwered Womens and Lawyers Tongues, becauſe the one do always lye, the other never lye ſtill.

102.

In one of Queen *Elizabeth*'s Parliaments, a Bill came down from the Lord's to the Commons, which being read three Times, moſt of the Houſe were for Paſſing it, notwithſtanding there was too great Favour in it to Peers that ſhould Kill any Commoner: Up ſtands a plain honeſt Member, that ſerved for *Liverpoole* in *Lancaſhire*, Mr. Speaker [ſays he] I am for Paſſing that Bill too, provided there may be this Exception in the Act, That no Lord ſhall either Kill me, my Wife *Joan*, Son *Tom*, or any of the good Town of *Liverpoole*, for which I ſerve. Which ſtartled the Houſe, and made them throw out that Bill.

103.

A Mettled young Spark having form'd a handſome deſign to Steal an Heireſs, a great Fortune; engag'd a couple of Gentlemen [his conſtant Companions] to aſſiſt him therein, which they frankly undertook, and chearfully performed: Being come to the Houſe where the young Lady was, and the Signal being given ſhe came [willingly enough you may be ſure] to the Widow, which being barred with Iron, put them all to a great deal of trouble to get her out; ſo one [wiſer than the reſt, at leaſt in his own Opinion] propos'd, That ſhe ſhould put her Head out firſt; ſaying, for certain, if ſhe could get that through

through, or between the Bars, her Body wou'd soon and easily follow; but they were mistaken in that Vulgar Opinion: However, another directing her to draw in her Head, and to come sidling; she came thro' with some Difficulty: Her Sweet-Heart (when she stuck by the way) continually calling out, Pluck ye Dogs, Pluck, for the best part is behind.

104.

An old Lecherous Blade, being very Sweet upon one of his House-Maids, to have a slap at her with the old Hanger; by a Mistake, and an unaccountable accident, fell foul on the Old Lady his Wife; and carrying her into the Barn in the Dark, began to be wonderous Amorous, but all wou'd not do, young Flesh being wanting, so being call'd Fumbler, and laugh'd at by the old Woman; he soon found his Error. Ha! ha! says he, I thought 'twas an old Haunt, and so no wonder, there was no good to be done.

105.

A Mad young Spark coming early to a great Estate, took his constant Companions (roaring Boys) down to his Seat, where they made all fly, drinking Bumpers with a Continuando: One of the Knot told the young Gentleman, That the Wind whistled so pleasantly through the fine Woods and Groves of Oak, about the House, that it lull'd him asleep. Say ye so, replys the Extravagant; I'll soon spoil their Whistling, and so separate them, that they shan't hear one another if they hollow: And so he did; for he soon cut them all down, and spent the whole Estate, no less than 1500 l.

per Annum, beſides a good Cod in his Pocket, of 6000 *l.* in ready Rhino.

106

A Citizen of *London* (by Trade an Apothecary) being Married; ſometime after his Wife came to him for Ten Pound to buy her ſome Tackle, which he immediately gave her; being an excellent Woman, a good Houſe-wife, and they both living Lovingly together. In leſs than a Month after, ſhe came again to him for Ten Pound more; he went forthwith to his Bag and fetch'd it for her; and at putting it into her Hands, ſmilingly ſaid, A Man I find muſt pay pretty dear for a little of that ——— To which ſhe immediately made this Repartee, Sir, you may have more for your Money, if you pleaſe.

107

Several of the Top Wits of the Court, in King *Charles* the IId's Time, being together, and his Majeſty in the middle of them; they were telling Stories, and talking pleaſantly to divert the King: All on a ſudden ſays *Harry Savil*, I'll be gone Prithee, why ſy haſty? and whither will you go *Harry*? ſays his Majeſty. Only Sir (ſays he) to *Charing Croſs*, to whiſper your Father in the Ear, and tell him what lewd Company you keep.

108

A Gentleman ſending for a Taylor in all haſte, to make him a Suit of Clothes; told him he muſt make him a very ſtrong Suit, that wou'd laſt him a great while: A Gentleman of the Long Robe ſtanding by, adviſ'd him to a *Chancery*

very Suit, which he was ſure would laſt him long enough.

109

A noted Member of the Houſe of Commons for Wit and Pleaſantry; at a Debate upon the Election of the Prince and Princeſs of *Orange* to the King and Queen of *England*; ſaid thus, Mr. *Speaker*, I am abſolutely for it: for King *James* was ſo kind to make my Daughter a Countes, and I'll make his Daughter a Queen

110

An Officer being ſent down into the Country, to ſearch amongſt the Diſaffected for Arms, came to a plain Fellows Houſe to ſee what ſtore he had by him; and was told, Truly he had but a few, about a Dozen, and they were in the Garret: Up he whip'd, thinking to ſeize them all; but truly when he came there, he found only half a Dozen Children: Thoſe Sir, ſays the Maſter, are all the Arms I have, but only my own

111

One ſaid (having drunk Small-beer) that it was very dead; It's very likely ſaid another: for it was very weak when I was laſt there.

112

One ſeeing a Lawyer riding on a Dun Horſe: See (ſaith he) there is the Devil upon a Dun.

113

A Gentleman being in Company, where were many Men and but one Woman only, and ſhe young and untouch'd; he unawares began

gan to her Health; To the beſt in Chriſtendom, which ſhe pledged, and nam'd the Health at large; at which the Company ſmil'd, but not laugh'd, being unwilling, and indeed better bred than to put the Lady to the Bluſh; tho' ſhe ſoon perceived her innocent Errors.

114

The famous Serjeant *Maynard*, when at the Bar pleading his Clients Cauſe, was always accuſtom'd to carry it very High; and to tell the Judges on the Bench (ſometimes none of the ſharpeſt) That that was Law he laid down, and he would abide by it, and ſo carried the Cauſes. The very next Day he happen'd to be retain'd in another Cauſe, tho' exactly of the ſame Nature, but then on t'other Side; and being very Zealous for his Client, he aſſerted himſelf to be in the right, and what he deliver'd to be Law. How now, brother *Maynard*, ſays the Judge, was it not Law yeſterday? And it is Law to Day? What ſay you Sir? My Lord (ſays he) it is ſo, Older and Wiſer.

115

A mad Woer well fitted: One woing a Widdow, more to ſatisfie his Friends than to oblidge his own Inclination; told her, That he had three Qualities, which ſhe muſt be acquainted with before he Married her: The firſt was, That when he went abroad, at his return home, that he ſhould be angry without a Cauſe: The ſecond, That he muſt eat his Meat alone: And, the third, That he ſhould but lie with her once a Month. If this be all (reply'd ſhe) I care not a Straw: For as to the firſt, whereas you ſay, that you will be Angry without a Cauſe: never

fear

fear Sir, I will take care to give you Cause enough: And, for the second, in eating your Meat alone; pray do that with all my Heart, good Sir; it must and shall be after I have well Dined: And for your lying with me but once a Month, I am satisfied with it; for if you will not, another both will and shall: Nor in that Time I shall have a Months mind to one, if no more; therefore agreed.

116

A famed Man of the Town for Wit, having Stole and Married a certain Ladies Daughter, with whom he had ne'er a Groat; having by her a very pretty Boy, who us'd to go often to see his Grand-mother, and sometimes stay with her two or three Months: The Ladies who visited the Old Gentlewoman, used often to praise the sweet Lad. Ah, says the old Granny, 'tis I maintain this Boy, 'tis I keep him. Which being told the Father, he made this reply, she may very well keep my Boy, when I keep her Girl (having had no Portion.)

117.

Upon a late Act of Parliament, Prohibiting the use of all Plate (Spoons and Forks excepted) in all Publick Houses. An Ale-house-keeper asked a Gentleman of the Long-robe (a dry Youth) If she might not still use, notwithstanding the Statute, her Mugs tip'd with Silver? Yes (says he) you may; for you are not within the Act, which says, no Plate (except as before) shall be used: Now you never use that tipping, for you never fill up to it.

A famed Hiſtoriagrapher (or as a ſilly Fellow call'd him Hiſtory groper,) take which you like beſt; being a Man of Excellent Parts, of Univerſal Learning, a choice Critick, &c. being brought into the Company of a certain Lord, renowned for Wit and Poetry, (a Thing not very common!) to be admired for his Diſcourſe; ſat ſtill a full Hour and ſpake not a Word: At laſt having been well ply'd with Glaſſes of Red, he roſe, went to the Chimney and ſpued Heartily. I am glad of that (ſays my Lord) let it go, for 'tis the firſt thing I have heard come out of his Mouth ſince I came into his Company.

119

A certain *Engliſh* Biſhop by Nation (and may by Nature) a *Scotchman*; having been informed that a Neighbour of his (an indifferent Perſon for Fortune in the World) had ſaid he was a falſe *Scot*; which made him ſend for him, and ask him preſſingly if he ſaid ſo? The Fellow abſolutely deny'd it. Well, what did you ſay, ſaid the Biſhop. My Lord, (replys the Man) I only ſaid you were a true *Scot*. Which bit him to the Heart, as much as if he had bid him read *Cleveland*'s Satyr upon his Country-men.

120

A Gentleman being arrived at St. *Germains en Lay*. (the Court of the late King *James* before he left *France*) went forthwith to wait on his Majeſty; who demanded, What News from *England*? None very good Sir, reply'd he. Well, but how ſtands my Intereſt there, ſays the King? Why truly Sir, anſwers he, 'tis very conſiderable among the Ladies; for I believe all the Whores in *England* are for your Majeſty. Ay,

ſays

says King *James*, and if all the Rogues there too were for me, I should soon be at *Whitehall*.

121

A Woman being on her Death-bed; her Husband very soberly ask'd her, who (if she then Dy'd) he should Marry? quoth she, Hey day! Are you in haste to Marry the? Why then Marry the Devil's Dame. No, my Dear replyed he, I should commit Incest, and be in danger of the *Spiritual Court*; for I have Matched with his Daughter already.

122

The late King *James*, when Duke of *York*, often us'd to Hunt in *Epping Forrest*, and on that side, having kill'd a Buck, and being joined by his Guards, an old Blundering Fellow (a plain Country Man that used to Hunt with him) by accident riding cross the Road, run against his Highness; the Guards immediately cry'd out, Damn ye Sirrah, what's that for? Could not you see the Duke? No, says the Clown, could not the Duke see me; I am sure his Eyes are better than mine, because Younger.

123

A Gentlemen of *Essex*, of three or four Thousand a Year, of high Spirit, and great Stomach; being invited to a Match of Hunting by a Neighbour of less Fortune, but a very blunt honest Man; accepted the Offer, and promised to be at the Rendevouze; but (says he) you must provide a good Dish, for I shall be damn'd Hungry, and hardly hold out the Chase: No, says the Old Curmudgin, not

a

a bit; for I have Hang'd many a Dog for quitting his Sport.

124

A Nobleman often using the aforesaid Recreation, used always to be near his Huntsman, who was an excellent old Servant, and one of whom he prized, and was often Familiar with; but at coming to a Hedge or Ditch, he would call him, *Jack*, do you leap first. Not I by G——d, my Lord, (replys he) do you go first and break your Neck if you please, I value mine a little more.

125.

A *Witty Dialogue between a* Cambridge-*Scholar and a Young Gentleman.*

Madam, I vow, you look wonderous Pretty; Nay, you are not only so, but also Handsome to a Miracle. Sir, I wish I could say as much by you, to retaliate your Compliment, but it being impossible, unless I believe my self, or wrong my Judgment, I shall then pass it. Truly *Madam*, your Beauty shines like the Wings of a Raven, casting a Lustre from their very Night. And under that Favour Sir, it seems you're ventur'd abroad; for the Lustre of the Day confines Owls to their Dormitory. Fair Lady, since Fortune has thrown me in your way, thus I kneel to beg a Kiss of your brown Hand, or tawny Face. Truly Sir, how kind Fortune has been to you, I know not: Verily, she has dealt somewhat unmannerly with me, in throwing such a Block in my way to interrupt my Walk. Alas! Madam, did I but know your Worth, it might for any thing the Contrary appear to me, be worth striving. Verily Sir, tho' yours is well known,

you

You have ſure met with ill Natur'd Acquaintance; for it ſeems no Body thinks it worth valuing but your ſelf. Madam, your Twinkling Eyes behind your black Vizzard, look like Stars, peeping out on the Day time when the Sun is Eclipſed. You ſay right Sir! and it has wonderouſly ſatisfied me. For in Truth Sir, I always took your underſtanding to be ſo clouded, that I had not thus played at Boo-peep with you, it ſeems I ſhould never have found you Witty. Well, Madam, I ſee you keep up your wonted Humour as Frolikſome as ever: Is it not Time that your wild Oats were ſcattered: Truly, it is Sir, and I could never have lighted upon a better opportunity to have it done in, ſeeing I have a Gander ready to pick them up. Madam, I am ſo much yours, that whatever you Command me, I ſhall do what I liſt. Sir, I am not ignorant that Fools are always obſtinate.

126

The Original and Cauſe of ſome Things, which hitherto Multitudes have been in the Dark: And firſt of the Word Cockney, *from whence it came, and is derived.*

A Country-man Marrying a Citizen of *London*, and having by her an Handſome Boy; when he was about 15 Years of Age, he thought it convenient to take him into the Country to viſit his Relations: In the Way of his Journey, the Boy perceiving a Colt running in a Field, and Neighing after a Mare; when calling to his Father, who was a little before him, ſaid, Father, Father, what does this Creature which makes this Noiſe ſay? Why Child, (replied the Father) it Nighs after his Dam, which is

in the Shade. For they had not paſſed, but a Cock mounting on the Poles, and clap'd his wings and cry'd *Cock a doodle do*: Upon which the youngſter ſaid, Hark Father, how the Cock Neighs. Which Words being over-heard by ſome Country Bumkins, has ever ſince entail'd (tho' corruptly) the Epithet of *Cockney* upon every born Citizen.

127

The Original of Throwing at Cocks on Shrove-Tueſday, *is ſuppoſed as followeth.*

A Burly and Buxom Country Dame, being under Husbanded, retired with a Friend in a Corner, and there they did what I bluſh to Name; yet you may gueſs: There a noſie Cock being perched on his Rooſt, eſpyed more than either he, or at leaſt they thought was becoming his Dame; clapping his Wings, fell a Crowing, to Alarm the contented Husband, and the Neighbourhood, and diſturb them at their pleaſant Paſtime; for neither the Man nor the Woman being over-burthen'd with Wit; yet having guilty Conſciences, which need no Accuſers ingeniouſly interpreted the Harmleſs Cock's Noiſe in theſe Words, *viz. My Maſter s a Cuckold I know, I know* Ah! (ſaid ſhe) doſt thou ſo; in troth, ſince thou doſt, thou ſhalt tell no Tales; for I'll ſecure thee betimes: But the Cock fearing nothing, crys out aloud again. To which ſhe replied,

Doſt thou ſay thy Maſter's in the Cuckold's Row,
And to Day the Boys muſt at thee Throw,
For telling what's done below;
Though it's real Truth I vow,
Oh come come ſee it now.

Whereupon at peep of Day, to conceal any Tokens

kens of his being Kill'd at Home, ſhe deliver'd him into the Hands of a parcel of unlucky Boys on the Day beforementioned; who calling a Mob-Council, doom'd him, for ſo abuſing his kind Miſtreſs, to be Cudgelled to Death, by throwing at him: Which ever ſince has been a Barbarous Cuſtom, not like to be laid aſide. But the young Cock perceiving his Father's Fate; even from the Comb to the Spurs trembling at it, grew wiſe at the harms of others; ſo that ſeeing the like a little after, even at his time to Crow ſtood newter, briskly Clapping his Wings, tho' not without ſome inward motions of fear, ſoftly cried in a Poetical rapture,

I'll neither meddle nor make, as to make Strife,
Tho' Dame changes Man ſo oft as I do my Wife.

And by this, ſecured himſelf from wambling in a Pottage-pot with Bacon, living to have as great Varieties as his good-natur'd Dame, and to ſee a much fairer Brood of his than ſhe did of her Race, ſhe proving both Slippery and Barren.

128.

The Original of Horn-Fair, *and* Cuckold's Point *in* Kent.

You muſt know, that in the Time of King *John*, when Religion could no more keep a Prince's Cod piece button'd, than it can now infuſe Charity into a Prieſt, however diſguiſed. In the Houſe of Rendevoz at Cuckold-Point, where Troops of Merry Cuckolds meet, armed with Shovel, Spade, and Pick-ax; having their Heads adorned with Horned viſible Helmets, beſides thoſe in their Pockets; which in Modeſty muſt be concealed. Now where the aforeſaid Houſe now ſtands, there (as the beſt Hiſtorians tell us) ſtood a Water-Mill, and Providence having bleſſed the Knave the Miller with a very Handſome Wife: King

John going often that way, to Hunt upon *Greenwich*-Heath, and thereabouts, happened to see the Miller's Wife, and became so Enamour'd with her lovely looks; she being so Charming, that he could by no means restrain his Inclinations, but must needs have a Bout with her, and Cuckold the Miller. To effect which, the Cunning Baggage consented; but as it is believed, so Cunningly and demurely managed the Matter, that her Husband should come home and catch them, even in the heighth of their Pastime; which the Miller did accordingly, and seeming not to know that he was King, took him up in his Arms, and threatned to fling him into the Mill dam, and grind his Head off; which so frightned His Majesty, That he told him, if he would spare his Life, he would give him all the Lands as far as he could see one Way: Which the Miller made him vow to perform, before he would quit his hold; so then set him down very civilly and contentedly, and went Whistling into his Mill, leaving the King to finish his business with his Wife, as a means to further ingage him to the performance of his Promise: The Miller waiting with a great deal of Impatience till his Wife had submitted her self like a good Subject to her dread Sovereign; and quietly surrendered that Fort upon Discretion, which the King greatly desired, and wanted to be Master of. But as soon as the Fatigue was over, and the Royal Cuckold maker had Gratified his Ambition, in adoring the Brows of the Mealy Peasant. The Miller began to Solicite His Imperial Rival for the Generous Reward he had promised, to Faciliate the weaning of that Forked Burthen, which otherwise would have sat very uneasie on his Forehead.

T

which indeed in some cases she might have pretended to, had not her Parents Misfortunes embittered her Fortunes, insomuch, that the good Learning and pretty Face were the best part of her Portion; being indeed then almost they had to leave her: But a Gentleman of an Estate, tho' both hard-favour'd and clownish, Espouses her: And after Marriage, both seemingly devout, and constant Church-folks, she never missing the Six a Clock Prayers, or any other occasion that call'd to Church: Her Seat there fronting the Parson and Clerk's Desks, so that their Eyes could not have a fairer Mark before them than that Female Auditor. Now it so fell out, that both the Parson and Clerk being Young, and both Batchelors, unfortunately divided their Devotions, *viz.* a little to Heaven, and a little to the fair Opposite; insomuch, as was observed, that they could not forbear casting a Sheep's Eye upon that white Lamb of their Flock; First, the kind Man of God, among his daily Visits, had the opportunity of entertaining the Mistress of the House, when the Husband's Business called him abroad: And verily tho' he preached loudly against the Flesh and the Devil, yet he was not so vehemently zealous against the Flesh; for only to propogate Religion in the Family, he took occasion one Day to inculcate a little Love, to tell his Dear *Proselite* and *Disciple* in plain heathen, tho' dunstable Language, That he had a Carnal as well as Spiritual Affection for her. Which at first (from a Man of his Coat) a little startled her; and seemed very much concerned that she should stir such an regular motion in a Person of his Character and Function, yet for all, as a Compassionate she lent her Ear to her Amorous *Canonical* Humble Servant, or Well-wisher. Now the good Man in Black, having as he thought, gain'd the Out-

works

works, resolved to Muster his whole Strength for the last Attack, that then remaining only unconquered to carry the Fort; and hereupon taking the critical Minute, the next Morning he told her, That he had consulted his Pillow, and came fortified with unanswerable Reasons, which were impossible for her to refute: And to be plain with her, he told her, That he had been along Time sensible of hers, and her Husband's Cloud in the World; and as the dissipating that, was the greatest Blessing he could study or obtain; both to herself and her Husband; he requested the Concession of her Embraces upon no other Terms than Twenty fair broad Pieces of Gold, which he was ready to lay down for the purchase, which Sum he hop'd might somewhat allay the present Frowns of Fortune. So that the mollified Dame seemed a little plaint at this new Doctrine of Innocent Concupiscence, and very chearfully desired him to come again in the Evening; at which Time she would give him an Answer, possibly not to his Dissatisfaction. With which gentle Reply he took his leave, not a little Wrapt up with the Contemplation of his approaching Felicity, which he looked upon as securely as his own. And no sooner was the Doctor gone, but in comes the Clerk; for, Like Master, like Man, as the Proverb goes: He forsooth came visiting just upon such an Amorous Design, having (as well as his Master) been not a little smitten, came open, bold fac'd, and mouthed; which you must think at first not a little surprized the young Dame; nevertheless being not silenced at his Confidence, but cunningly confessed, that she had a long private Kindness for him; and therefore did not blush so much as otherwise she should, for giving her self up at so easy a Conquest: Nevertheless, telling him,

him, ſhe had heard a learned Doctor of the Church ſay, That a prudent Wife, upon ſo conſiderable Sum as to preſerve her Husband and Family's Well being, has, and may be diſpenſed with, in ſuch a Caſe. The generous Amen Man being more raviſhed with that ſweet Tune than any which ever belonged to STERNHOLD and HOPKINS *Pſalms*; and being both able and generous, frankly promiſed to give her Ten Pounds for the Bargain, and to come even at the Time ſet for his Maſter: Upon which he took his leave with no little ſatisfaction at ſo pleaſing a Triumph, and the Cunning Young Lady was as well pleaſed to think how ſhe would Nouſe and Gull the Maſter and Man. But no ſooner was he gone, but the honeſt Miller comes with a Griſt, hoping to lay his Stones, and grind the fair Dame's Mill, his Clack going very faſt, by it he made her a great many Vows and Proteſtations of Love and Affection. The Lady being reſolved to be a generous kind Miſtreſs to all her paſſionate Servants, ſoon came to the yielding Point; only the old Scruple of Conſcience, according to the aforeſaid Doctor's opinion, muſt be the firſt ſatisfied, *viz.* with the ſweet Sum of Ten Pounds, which was to be the Purchaſe of a ſweet Conceſſion.

Now the Day being come that theſe three Perſons were to Enjoy, as they thought, their ſweet Miſtreſs; the Laborious, Clowniſh, and Ignorant Husband, as cuſtomary going forth early the Day appointed, the dear and Cunning Dame deſired him by no means take his Dinner with him as uſual, but to come home at ſuch an Hour to an hot Dinner, which ſhe would provide for him, which ſhould be no ungrateful, but a very acceptable Entertainment. The harmleſs Man, not enquiring no farther, promiſed to

return accordindly, but withal, he muſt be punctual to the Minute of Half, an Hour paſt Eleven, neither ſooner or later. Now according to Aſſignation, the Parſon came about half an Hour paſt Ten, being the exact time appointed; and all things being ordered for his Reception, he was immediately carried to her Bedchamber, where he was deſired to unharneſs for Battle; for in Love's Combat, as ſhe made him believe, ſhe was wont, and had vowed to fight always Naked, her dear Husband being accuſtomed to do the ſame: So forthwith the Parſon ſtrips off his Mourning Weeds, Shirt alſo, and jumps into Bed; ſhe having promiſed him to make all ſafe below, and then come to his Embraces; but before ſhe went down ſhe ſecured all his Cloaths, and the Reward in a Cheſt under a Lock; and going down one, viz. The Clerk knocks, which made her return to tell him, That ſhe thought it was her Husband; ſo deſired him to hide himſelf behind the looſe Hangings, and whatſoever he heard or ſaw, for fear of the worſt not to ſtir or ſpeak one word, &c. So down ſhe went, and let in the Clerk, which having conducted up to the Bed, diſmantles him ſtark naked too, under the ſame Pretentions, and locks up alſo the promiſed Reward, with all his Cloaths in the ſame Cheſt: Which having no ſooner done, but a new Alarm was beat at the Door by the Miller; which put the ſecond Gallant in the ſame Conſternation as his Maſter was in, from the fear of that ſad diſturber of their Pleaſures, call'd an Husband; whilſt to ſecure all, ſhe obliged him under the ſame Charge of Silence, to ſculk behind the Hangings, whilſt ſhe deſcends to bring up the third Rival; and Treats him juſt as ſhe did his Brother Sterlings; but in the interim, the real Husband returning home, knocks, whilſt ſhe like a Dutiful

Wife

Wife went and let him in; whoſe Contemplation lay wholly towards the Kitchen and Cupboard more than the Bed Chamber, his Wife having promiſed him a good Dinner; and he ſeeing no preparation towards it, there being then not ſo much as a good Fire in the Chimney, which made him croſs; but the good Woman to appeaſe him, ſaith, *That before Dinner ſhe had ſomething to ſhew him, which might perhaps pleaſe him better than the beſt of Meats; telling him, That ſhe having a long time conſidered of their poor Circumſtances, and calling to Mind that when at the Boarding School, ſhe advanced then to ſuch a perfection in making Wax work Images; and that ſhe might not looſe the Art or Skill, ſeeing Imagery is now* Alamode, *and alſo grown very profitable, to try her Hand, to get a better Livelyhood, ſhe that Morning (as ſhe told him) had made two or three Samples of them, intending to ſurprize him with the Sight of ſuch a Curioſity; and not doubting but to raiſe a comfortable (if not a plentiful) Subſiſtance from her Art in that kind.* Now whilſt ſhe was a talking to him thus below, the three hot Sparks being a little cooled, found themſelves in a woful pickle, upon the unexpected Surprize of a Husband below, and indeed they were no Strangers one to another, or to the Buſineſs that cauſed 'em to come thither, having juſt Light enough from an old Window behind the Hangings, to caſt a rueful Aſpect upon each other, in that ſhameful pickle, being all the true Pictures of *Cupid*. So at laſt up Stairs ſhe takes him, with his Knife in his Hand, which he had drawn for his Victuals; and drawing back the Hangings, ſhe ſhewed him the promiſed Rarieties; which the Husband no ſooner ſaw, but he fell into a Rapture, and applauded her Ingenuity to the Skies, ſwearing they were all Maſter-Pieces; having never ſeen any thing more done to the Life. *Nay I proteſt* (ſaid he) *they are exact Copies from the Original; for this Wife*

(pointing to it with his Knife) *is so like our Parſon; and the other two our* Clerk *and* Miller; *all ſo Naturally done even to the Life, that never any thing which I ſaw in* Bartholomew-Fair *ever yet equaliz'd them.* "For (added he) methinks their Eyes "move and ſparkle more briskly than they in "the Fair: But yet, Wife, I muſt tell thee, "that, in my weak Judgment, there is one "Fault in every one of them, which I with this "Knife can eaſily mend. For the Parſon's "Hanger being much longer than mine, wants "that Supernatural Excrecency to be Cut off, "or Circumciſed; and the Clerk's Bell-Ropes "hanging too low, and conſequently being too "long, muſt needs hinder the Peal; and the "Miller's Stones lying too high, on the louder "muſt be let, or laid down, or elſe they will "never grind well". To which his Cunning Wife confeſſed, that theſe things being Eye-Sores to ſome, are reckoned to be Faults in one Senſe, *viz.* the Sight: But dear Husband, appeal to the reſt of the Senſes, and you'll find that, that will be over ruled. Pray, Wife, hold thy Prittle-prattle; for, with this Knife, I am fully reſolved to try my Skill, that I may partake both of the Praiſe and Profit. To which the fair Artiſt readily conſented: But approaching with the Knife for the Operation, at the apprehenſion of the terrible Cold Iron, the three Images, with a nimble ſort of Clock-work in their Breeches, all trundled down Stairs as if the Devil drove them, the Parſon leading the Van, the others following out of a particular Chriſtian antipathy to the Jewiſh and Heatheniſh Barbarity of Circumciſion and Caſtration, where they had the Happineſs of being a Town and Country Talk, and the Image-makers Profit and Laughter.

148

A Story of PURGATORY.

Pope *Gregory* gave a Prieſt a Silver Baſon, and endued it with this Vertue, That whoſoever dropped a Crown into it, his Friends Soul ſhou'd inſtantly upon the Sound of it be delivered out of *Purgatory*. Now in the Town where the Prieſt lived, dwelt a mad debauched Fellow, whoſe Uncle had left him a good Eſtate; to him the Prieſt went, and offered for a Crown to free his Uncles Soul out of Purgatory. The young Man ſaid, it was a reaſonable Propoſition: Whereupon he took out a Crown, and dropt it into the Baſon. Then he asked the Prieſt, if he thought that his Uncles Soul was out of Purgatory? It is, ſaid the Prieſt, which he had no ſooner ſaid, but the young Man Whips up the Money again. Of which the Prieſt was diſpleaſed, and ſaid, That if he kept it, his Uncles Soul would return again to Purgatory. Nay, replied the Young Man, there is no fear of that; for if he was but as obſtinate an old Knave when now dead, as he was when living; if he is but once out, as you ſay he is, all the Devils in Hell cannot get him again.

149

A Butcher's Wife in *Paris*, having been ſuſpected by her Husband to have Cuckolded him, to free him in part of that Jealouſy, ſeemed very Devout, and frequently went to Confeſſion: One day being with her Confeſſor, who amongſt many Queſtions, asked her, Whether ſometimes ſhe had not a mind to the Fleſh? Indeed (ſaid ſhe) I love Fleſh ſo well, that my Mouth waters whenever I ſee a good Bit, tho' in Lent. But I hope you eat it not, ſaid he. Not for a World, (replied ſhe to him.) *I but* (quoth the Prieſt) *tell me, Had you ever any Carnal Copulation with*

any beſides your Husband? No, ſaid ſhe, *I but in plainer Terms,* ſaid he, *did you never deſire to lye with another Man? Well, I muſt ingeniouſly confeſs* (quoth ſhe) *that once I had a great Inclination to an Apothecaries Man, our next Neighbour, but never did any thing with him: For in Truth, the Fool either would or could not underſtand my meaning, tho' it was as plain as a Pike ſtaff.* Ah, *Siſter,* ſaid the Confeſſor, *you know that the Will is as good as the Deed: However I'll abſolve you. Which with a low Courteſy ſhe thank'd, aſſuring him that ſhe would ſend him a Quarter of Mutton ready roaſted for Supper.* Upon which he invited ſeveral Friends to ſup with him, which came accordingly: But the Mutton not coming, the Prieſt ſent a Meſſenger for it: Whom the Woman told, *That it was ſent already:* To which the Prieſt ſent another to aſſure her there was no ſuch thing. Then the Woman bids him tell his Maſter, *That ſhe had a good Will to ſend it, but her Husband would not let her: And ſince he aſſured her that the Will muſt be taken for the Deed, ſhe deſired to be excuſed, hoping, according to his own Doctrine, that he would be as well content without the Mutton, ſince ſhe will'd it, as if he had received it.*

150

When Doctor *Busby* kept his School at *Weſtminſter-Abby,* in the midſt of the School as he was a Teaching, ſome unlucky Boy broke his Windows, ſo ſending down two of his Boys to ſee who it was, they brought Word, that they could ſee *No body. How* (ſaid the Doctor) *No-body break them! Here Horſe theſe two Boys; which being done, he Whipt them.* Now go down you two, and ſee whether you can ſee *No-body. Said one to the other, If we go, and ſay we ſee No-body, we ſhall be whipt: therefore we will ſtay till we ſee* Some-body: *Who ſhould come by but a* French-man *in his Cloak; one of them goes up,*

and

and said it was a French-man: Go call him to me, said the Doctor. *Down he runs again, and asked his Fellow which way he was gone? So telling him, he run after the* French man, *and told him, that his Master would speak with him.* Your Master speak wid me! Begar, me do not know your Master, Sir, *reply'd the Boy, he knows you very well.* Begar, me vil go wid you; but Begar me do not know him. *Then coming up to the Doctor, he began to make his Obeysance after his Fashion; but before he had half done, reply'd the Doctor, what made you break my Windows,* Sir, Me break your Windows! Begar me break none of your Windows. *But you did, said the Doctor.* What de Devil in the Man? Begar me break none of your Windows. *Here, here, Horse him; with that he was whipt soundly; and then in a Passion putting up his Breeches, he went to a Coffee-House at* Westminster, *and writ a Challenge to the Doctor, to know the Reason why he Whipt him, withal demanding Satisfaction. Then calling for a Porter, he asked him, if he knew one Doctor* Busby? *Yes* (*said he*) Do you den carry dis Letter to him, and stay for an Answer. *Which when the Doctor read it, he bid them Horse him, which they did; and he Whipt him as heartily as he had done the* French-man; *so going back in a Passion, he fell a-board of Monsieur.* Begar Mr. Porter, what do you beat me for? D——n you Rogue, did you send me to be Whipt? Why sure, he did not Whip you too? *Yes, you* French *Dog, he did, and I will make you pay for it.* Hold your Hand a little, why den he Whip me, he Whip you, he Whip all de World, he Whip de Devil, Begar; *so putting Hand in his Pocket he gave the Porter half a Crown to let him alone, and went away as contented as a Lamb with his Whipt Breech.*

151

There was a *Pope*, who being dead, *it is said* that he came to *Heaven's-Gate*, and knocking there St.

Peter being within, asked, Who was there? Which was answered, a Brother, the last Pope now lately deceased. To which St. *Peter* replys, Pray, since thou pretends to have the Keys, why dost thour knock? To which the Pope replys, That formerly his Predecessors had the Keys, but since the Wards are alter'd, he cannot unlock the Gate without his Assistance.

152

A Noble Man lighting out of his Coach at *Whitehall*, asked a Footman that stood there, what a Clock it was? Sir, said the Footman, what will you give me? Why, replys the Gentleman must I give you any thing to tell me that? Yes, Sir, (says he) for we Courtiers never do any thing without a Bribe.

153

A brisk young Lady, seeing the Sheriff of a County, that was a very handsome Man, waiting on a Judge, who was old; she was asked by her Companions which she fancied best, the Judge or the Sheriff? She answer'd the Sheriff. Why so? (says a Gentleman that stood next to her) because, (answer'd she) tho' I love Judgment well, yet I like Execution much better.

154

A parcel of Boys washing in *Bow* River, they making themselves Boots of Dirt, some of them taking a Piece of Dirt to stop the Hole of each Boys Bum; a Wench being among them, one of the Boys cries out, Here's one that has two Holes, give me two Pieces of Dirt.

155

A Jovial Fellow in Flanders being in Bed, let a great Fart, and repeated it twice or thrice, hearing his Wife laugh heartily, said to her, in troth you need not be so merry; for if the Wind continues, you are like to have foul and filthy

filthy Weather; falling to Sleep, she raised her Back-side and so be-water'd him, that it run from the Nape of his Neck down his Back to his Heels; he awaking, asked her, *What the Devil she mean by that? Nothing indeed Husband* (said she) *what I did was only to prevent that loathsome Storm you threatened me with, for I have heard a little Rain will allay a great Wind.*

156

Teague and *Sawny* coming to *London*, and passing by a Country Steeple; quoth *Teague*, *Sawny, Dost de shee how de Steeple standeth all of one wey, be my own Faders Shoul.* Indeed *Sawny* look'd up, and said, *By St.* Andrew *s Crost, I think so too. Let us* (says Teague) *make heavengsh wid our Backsh, and set it to rightsh; with that they went and pull'd off their Hats and Coats, and laid them upon the Grass.* Now a Country Man behind the Wall seeing their Folly, steps over and takes their Cloaths away, whilst they were Swearing and thrusting the Church on the other Side; at last they looked up, and *Sawny* says, *it was not removed enough*, and gives the other heave or two, and the Ground giving way, they thought verily they had moy'd the Steeple, and that it stood then right as it should; but coming to put on their Cloaths, and finding them gone, Teague cries out, *Ah!* Sawny, *my dear Joy, we have pushed it upon our Clesh, we must push it back again:* whereat they fell to Sweating, Thrusting, and heaving till the Skin was all rub'd of their Shoulders; when the Towns folk enquiring into the Matter, found out the Man with the Cloaths and laughing heartily at their Simplicity, made *Teague* and *Sawny* spend two Shillings to have their Cloaths again

The Earl of *Rocheſter* going very early into St. *James's-Park*, walking and muſing for ſome new Crotchets of Poeſy, met the King, with his Brother *James*, then Duke of *York*, accompanied by the Duke of *Lauderdale*, walking from *Whitehall* to St. *James's*; the King ſeeing him, ſaid, How now *Rocheſter*! What makes you ſo early here? I warrant you have ſome new invented Fancies in your Head; come, let us hear one of them: The Earl excuſed it, as not convenient; but the King preſſing him, promiſing, That he would never be angry whatever it was: He thus diſcanted one of them;

For Maiden-head Bargains, Your Majeſty's beſt,
The Duke for his Valour, and breaking a Jeſt;
And Lauderdale *that is ſo wondrous pretty,*
By his Politick Games, the Applauſe of the City.

158

A Gentleman having drank very had at the King's Head Tavern, came reeling out of Doors up *Chancery Lane*, and happen'd to Reel within the Rails of the Pump, and keeping his Motion round ſo long, that he was tyred; whereupon, leaning upon the Rails, he asked one that paſſed by, Where he was? The Man told him, Over againſt the *Chancery*. I thought ſo (ſays he.) I believe that the Reaſon I think ſo, I ſhall never get out of this place:

Then a Pox of the Chancery (*ſaid he*)
For it is a bewitched Place I ſee;
For it doth ſoon bereave them of their Treaſure,
As that I am now ſurely come hither.

159

A Tom-Turd-Man happening to come to a Perfumer's Shop, fell inſtantly into a Swoon, ſo that the People thought he was really Dead, which drew the Mob about him; ſo a Chyrurgeon being ſent for in all haſte to let him Blood:

In

In the mean time up comes another of his Brother Trade, who seeing him lie so, cries out, *Tom!* What ails thee? But no *Tom* answered him; at which the other down with his Breeches, and shit a large brown Turd, which he clapped hot to his Nose, and then *Tom* immediately recovered, and being in his proper Element again; which caused his Friend to make these Secrecies upon him:

Thus by a Turd the Vertue you may see,
Which more than Chyrurgeons Skill, doth make Death flee,
Which Vertue, and which Scent in nought else could be
The like for Vertue as that here you see:
The scent from Death, hath strangely here reviv'd,
That nothing better then could be contriv'd:
Therefore, fair Ladies, this thing is more wholsome,
And the Court Snuff is much more troublesome:
For truly every Fop now in this Age,
Nothing can take but Fum'd Snuff in Rage,
Which doth their Crafty-Brain greatly molest,
By taking of this nasty French-*like Pocky Snuff.*

160

A Physician sent his Horse to a Country Farrier, and as soon as he had cured him, the Doctor went to Pay him: No, (says he) Brothers of Profession should not take Money one of another: Why then (said the Physician) farewel Brother.

161

A cunning Fellow selling an old Horse at a Fair, the Chapman question'd his Age: Upon which the Fellow clapped his Hand upon his Back, and wish'd he might be hanged if he was not under Five, (meaning his five Fingers) and so got him off.

162

A Gentlman inviting several of his Friends to Supper; a couple of Rabbits being under his Hand, (as he was carving them up) his Wife called

call'd to him Husband, prithee give me a flap of the Coney. At which the good Man being abashed, reply'd, How now Wife! What? Before all this Company?

163

A Merry and Witty *Cambridge* Scholar going from *London* to *Colchester* in a very cold wet slabby Day; coming to an Inn there, having given the Ostler his Horse, immediately went into the Kitchen to warm himself; but an unmannerly Company of Townsmen surrounding the good Fire, so that the Person could not come near: Whereupon he calls to the Ostler to fetch a Peck of Oisters, and give them to his Horse. Will your Horse eat them? (reply'd the Ostler.) Pray try (said the other.) The Townsmen hearing this, left the Fire to see the Wonder; and in the Interim the Parson making choice of the best Seat, fix'd himself in a great Chair by the Fire. The Ostler having made Tryal brought the Oysters to the Gentleman, saying, That the Horse would not touch them. Well (quoth the Parson) if he will not, pray bring 'em to me, and I will see if I can eat them. So the Men perceiving the Plot, leering one upon the other, laugh'd, but were asham'd to tarry there any longer.

164

A poor Country Fellow praying Devoutly before an old Image of St. *Lop*, the Image being rotten, unexpectedly fell upon the poor Man, and grievously bruised him: And in the Interim the cheating Priests sets up a new Image in the others Room. So the Countryman being recovered of his Bruises, came to the same Church, and was observed at a great distance to kneel before the same Image: And being ask'd the Reason of his kneeling at such a great distance? Reply'd, That tho' that which was the Son,

smiled

ſmiled upon him, but the Father play'd him ſuch a prank lately, that fearing the Son hath ſome of the unhappy Qualities of the Father, he'll not come near him.

165

It being left to the choice of a Gentlewoman of two Suiters, which ſhe would chooſe, a tall Man, or a ſhort One? To which ſhe pauſing a little, anſwer'd, I would in good ſooth have a lofty tall Man, provided all things were proportionable.

166

A Gentleman not many Years ago, coming by a Goldſmith's Shop, ſaw there a delicate lovely Woman, whom (as ſhe was) the Miſtreſs; and that he might delight his Eyes with leſs ſuſpected freedom, he went into the Shop, deſiring to ſee ſome Jewels, Rings, and Lockets, *&c.* So having ſatisfied his Fancy for the preſent, after he had bought a ſmall Triffle, he departed with a ſpeedy Reſolution to return: Coming ſeveral times to the Shop after this manner, at length became well acquainted both with the Man and his Wife. Having got the Familiarity, he one Day came to the Shop, and ſhewed them a fine Jewel, deſiring the loan of fifty Pounds upon it for a Month, which was ſoon granted. In ſome time after, he watching when the Gentleman went Abroad, went the Houſe and ſpared neither for Coſt nor Courtſhip, to win the Gentlewoman to comply with his deſires: So having well warmed her with Wine, attempted the Violation of her Chaſtity by all the Wiles and Stratagems he could deviſe; but ſeeing none would take, he offered her the Fifty Pounds (he had received of her Husband) for one ſingle Amorous Encounter, which throughly wrought its deſired effects.

But

But having ſufficiently Conſummated what he ſo impatiently deſir'd; in cold Blood, he began to conſider what a raſh Act he had done. The Lady on the other ſide, having got ſo rich a Booty, with a deal of ſweet Pleaſures to boot; fearing leaſt this ſerious Conſultation with himſelf, might produce miſchief; ſhe deſired him to be gone, fearing leaſt her Husband ſhould come, who might by ſeeing him there, juſtly ſuſpect ſome foul Play in his Abſence. No, no, replied the Gentleman, (having juſt deviſed a Plot) let him come; I have juſt thought of a way which will aſſuredly prevent all ſuſpicion in him. So having no ſooner ſaid the Words, but her Husband came up Stairs, and at his approach, the Gentleman ſtep'd to him, ſaying, Sir, I thank you for your late Kindneſs, in lending me fifty Pounds; I have received Money ſooner than I expected, therefore brought it, and have juſt now paid it, to your Wife, with Uſe for the Loan, and was coming down with her to the Shop to receive the Jewel. The Goldſmith asking his Wife, if ſhe had received ſuch a Sum of him? Having it then about her, durſt not deny it; whereupon the Jewel was reſtored, but who do you think was the Gainer?

167

A Gentleman being a great diſtance from his own Houſe, rid Poſt: So having ſupped, and being in Bed with his Wife; he ſaid, Deareſt, pray excuſe me to Night, that I pay not that Tribute due to our Loves; for I am ſo weary that I am not capable of doing any thing but ſleep: You muſt think that theſe Words were none of the moſt pleaſant to ſuch a young ſanguine Gentlewoman, after ſuch a long Abſence of a lufty Husband. But not long after, he walked with her in his Hand in the Back yard, chanced

to

to ſee a Game-Cock which he took great delight in, ſitting very Mopiſh in the Sun aſleep, rejecting the Society of his fruitful Miſtreſſes: Prithee, Sweet-Heart (quoth he) What ails my Cock, which droops and Hangs his Head thus? Which pertly anſwer'd, Indeed my Dear, I do not know, unleſs he has lately ridden Poſt.

168

A brisk Taylor with his long Bill, came by appointment to attend a great Lord, to be paid his Money, where having waited a great while below in the Hall, was call'd up Stairs, where the Lord told him, That as yet he had no Money for him: But in the intrim, there was brought up his Lordſhip's Breakfaſt, part of which was bronght up in a Silver Porringer, and another full the Lord commanded to be fetch'd for his Taylor; who bowed and very demurely accepted of, and as heartily eat it, giving his Lordſhip Thanks; and receiving new Commands (for his next attendance) he departed; going home into his Cutting Room, where having not been long uſing his Sheers, but he was fit for his Bodkin, his Broth beginning to ſtir, provok'd him to call up his Wife, which preſently came, and with whom he eaſily prevail'd, pleaſing her as well as himſelf, and very highly, with a ſweet Kiſs, diſmiſſed her till further Orders: For it happen'd that within a few Hours after, he called for her again and again: Upon which, having done, ſhe deſired him to tell her how this pleaſant, but ſtrange, ſudden, and unwonted Alteration came, and what it was made him ſo gameſome? To which Queſtion, he made this Reply, telling her very dolefully, That he had been with ſuch a Lord, and he could not pay him that Bill that Morning, but put him off as he had done formerly: But indeed, Wife, quoth he, he order'd

me

me such a Porringer of good Broth, which I think has wrought these vigorous Effects in me. To which the good Woman said, Husband dear Husband, the Times are hard, and it may be the good Lord wants Money; Prithee, my Love, let us then take out all the Bill in such Broth; which was good and sober Advice.

169

A Country Man sent his Maid to the Mill with some Grist, where the Miller seeing her to be a Bucksome Lass, Kiss'd her, and gave her it seems that which she wanted, yet more than she look'd for: The Wench coming home, cry'd always, *Here's a Miller with all my Heart*: At which her Dame suspecting more than wondering, went her self with the next Grist; and the good natur'd Miller serv'd her according to Expectation, as he did the Maid; which made her come home in the same Tone and Tune, and jumping up and down, and saying nothing, *But here's a Miller with all my Heart*; The contented Man amaz'd to find them both in the same Tone, and he would, as he told them, go himself with the next Grist to find out the Mystery; which coming to the Mill, and being Jealous, gave the Miller harsh and bad Words, which caus'd the Miller to knock and beat him soundly, but after another manner than he had done them: Which, coming home, and sitting down in his Chair, said, *And here's a Miller with all my Heart*; which the Wench over-hearing, ran to her Dame, telling her of it; and adding withal, Verily Dame, I think, and believe just as the Miller served you and I, he hath given the same sweet Sawce to my honest Master. Which he over hearing, said, *You and the Miller shall go to the Devil for me, and with the Grist too, and be Pox't before I go again*: Which pleased all Parties.

170

A Country Curate coming to *Cambridge* to take his Degree of Master of Arts; was asked by an Head of a House, (whereof the Curate was a small Member) *How he durst, being so green and illiterate, enter himself into the Ministry, and take the Care of Souls?* To which he reply'd, *That the Lord had need of him.* *Verily*, said the other, *I never heard that the Lord had need of any Thing but an Ass.*

171

A Parson asked a pert Lad, *How many Commandments there were? Nine, Sir* says he. *You are mistaken*, says the Parson, *for there are Ten. No but I am not*, replys the Boy, *for you have broke one with your Maid* Joan.

172

The same Youth desired the Parson to answer him one Question, seeing he had first fed him so willing. With all my Heart, quoth the Doctor: Then said the Lad, *Who made these Oxen? GOD*, said the Parson, *You lye* adds the Boy; *for God made them Bulls, but my Father made Oxen of them.*

173

A young Lady providing her self with an Husband unknown to her Father, when it came to be discovered, her Dad was very angry for a Time; but however, having a particular tenderness for her, was soon reconciled; when she came for his Blessing, he told her, nothing troubled him so much, as to think what unpleasant Days she should have with that bad Husband she was tyed to. *Oh, Sir*, said she, *I hope I shall have the pleasanter Nights.*

174

A Country Gentleman's eldest Son Marrying a Lame Lady; a double Match was propos'd of Marrying the Young Gentleman's own Sister (de-

(defective in her Eye-ſight) to the ſame Lady's Brother: Ay, ſays a Witty Woman of the ſame Family, Faith, it will do very well, e'en turn tail to tail, and ne'er tell Portions; 'Tis but a blind Jade for a lame Stalion.

175

A luſty Laſs that had a Sweet heart, who preſs'd her mightily for a Nights Lodging, at length ſhe conſented to it; and having conducted him through her Maſter's Chamber into hers, (which was an inward Room) to Bed they went, and he ſoon falling aſleep without embracing her, ſhe takes him out upon her Back, and paſſing through her Maſter's Chamber, carried him to the Stairs-head, and threw him down to the Bottom. What's that Huſſey, ſays her Maſter, that you threw down Stairs? Nothing, Sir, But the Greyhound Whelp. Why, adds he, you might as well have broke his Legs. 'Tis no matter, ſays ſhe, if I had broke his Neck, if he were no better for the Hare than he is for the Coney.

176

A Nun in *Portugal* being with Child, and near her time, feeling the Pangs, ſent in all haſte to the Lady *Abbeſs*, to come to her Aſſiſtance, who being then a Bed with a Fryar, inſtead of her Veil, whipped on her Gallant's Breeches, and in the hurry went in that Dreſs to the Nun's Labour; no ſooner was ſhe enter'd the Room, but ſhe began to rattle the poor Nun for violating her Chaſtity: Who (in as much Pain as ſhe was in) ſaid, Mend your Veil, Madam, Mend your Veil, Madam.

177

A Druken Fellow reeling againſt a Poſt in the Night, fancying it a rational Animal, (which is more than he was) fell a drubbing it: One paſſing

187

A Country Gentleman having a very ill-natured Wife, who upon the least occasion, (and sometimes without any) would be Sullen for a long time. In one of her Fits, her Husband came to her, and told her she must dress herself, and go abroad to a Friend's House with him, which she did, but spoke not a Word; so both being mounted, he carries her into a large Broom Field, and Rides backwards and forwards for above an Hour; when she asked him, What made him ride up and down the Field so often? Answers he, It was only to find your Tongue, and now I have found it, we will go home again.

188

A Gentleman having a gadding Wife, one Day lock'd her up; his back was no sooner turned, but whip she went out of the Window, so he shut the Doors, and swore, That she should never come there again. At last, by Intercession of her Father and Mother, he was reconciled to her; the old Folks came home with the young Woman to set all Things to Rights; no sooner was the Father and Mother got in at the Doors, but the Husband slipped in, and shut the Door against his Wife: Nay, Son, (says the old Dad) that is not fair: Did not you say you would take your Wife, and be Friends? Yes, I did and will, replies the Son-in-Law, but in good Faith, she shall come in at the place she went out; and so she was forced, and then all was well.

189

A Fellow that had a horrid Scolding Wife, and could not tell what to do with her, at last resolved on a Project; one Day as she was opening her Throat, and scolding most grievously at him, he laid hold of the Pestle and broke her Wrist, and with a second Blow, broke her left Arm:

Then

Then ſhe cry'd out, and ſaid, ſhe would never Scold again. You may as you like this, (ſays he) for by Gingo, I will break all the Bones in your Body, but I'll be at quiet.

190

An old Fop, fond of a long Beard, which hung down almoſt to his Waſte; as he ſtood talking with a Gentleman by a Coach, one of the Horſes taking it for a Wiſp of Hay, ſtretcht out his Head and ſnapt at it, the old Fellow being ſcared, ſaid, A Pox on the Horſe, and the Maſter for keeping him ſo very hungry.

191

A notorious old Offender being brought to the Bar, and knowing his Caſe to be very dangerous, cry'd aloud to the People, I charge you in the King's Name to ſeize and take away that Man, (meaning the Judge in the Red Gown) for I go in danger of my Life becauſe of him.

192

A Soldier Quartering at *Cambridge* often obſerv'd a young Country Wench that ſold Pigs on Market days, whereupon he went to her, and deſired to ſee ſome of her Pigs; he having ſeen ſeveral, he ſaid, he would have one that was alive, ſo ſhe ſhew'd him one that ſhe had in a Bag: Well, Sweetheart (ſaid he) I live hard by. I will go and ſhow the Pig to my Captain, if he like it, you ſhall have three Shillings for it, but in the mean time I will leave the Money with you. Thus having got the Pig ty'd up in the Bag, he went to his Lodging, and put a Dog in the Bag inſtead of it; and returning quickly to the Damſel, ſaid, His Captain did not like the Pig, and therefore ſhe took the Bag without looking into it, and gave him his Money again. Not long after a *French* Man in haſte to buy a Pig, he not liking thoſe that were dead would have

have a live One: Sir, ſaid ſhe, I have one of the ſame Bigneſs alive, the Price of it is three Shillings, I will not ſell it a Farthing Cheaper Well (ſaid he) if you will not, here's your Money; But how ſhall I carry it? Why, for a Groat you ſhall have the Poke and all. *Poke! Vat is dat?* ſaid *Monſieur.* 'Tis a Bag, ſaid the Wench. *Is dat de Poke? Vell here's a Groat.* Thus away he goes with his Bargain home, but when he came to look in the Poke, he ſee the Dog, *O de Diable!* (ſaid he) *Is dis de Pig? de Diable take me, if ever me do buy Pig in de Poke again.*

193

A Young *Cambridge* Scholar following a young Maid, he lik'd her very well behind, but looking in her Face, found ſhe had a very large Noſe: Well, ſays he to her, if I had lik'd you before as well as I did behind, I would have kiſſed you. Pray, Sir, ſays ſhe, kiſs me where you like. But it is your Noſe that I miſlike. Why, in that place that I appointed you to kiſs, I had never a Noſe there.

194

A young Woman living in the *Strand*, being newly Married, uſed to lye a Bed after her Husband, he being underneath in his Shop, as ſhe was playing her Tricks above; for ſhe tried to pull her Heels over her Neck, which being done, ſhe could not get them back again, but with turning, tumbled off the Bed; Her Husband hearing a great Noiſe above, ſent up his 'Prentice (he being a raw Country Boy) to ſee what was the matter; who came down and told his Maſter, that his Miſtreſs was bewitch'd, and turned into an Owl, and that ſhe was fallen off the Bed, and with her Fall had got a great Gaſh in her Shoulder.

195

A Famous Knight of *Cheſhire* had a Lady, who always fancied to have her Woman lie in a Trundle-Bed under hers, to be ready to riſe to fetch any thing, as Cordial water, &c. if her Ladyſhip happened to be taken ill in the Night; the Husband was againſt it, and ſaid, it was indecent, and infringed on their Freedom: But the Lady would have it ſo, and that was enough. Sometime after the Lady's Woman looked very round, ſo being Catechiſed, ſhe confeſſed Sir *William* had been with her; And Huſſey, ſays my Lady, why did you not cry out? And pleaſe you, Madam, replys the Woman, I never heard your Ladyſhip do ſo.

196

The ſame Mettled Gentleman in a pleaſant Humour, asked his Lady, If ſhe would go and drink a Bottle of Wine, and eat ſome Fruit with him, in one Summers Afternoon, in one of the new Arbours he had juſt finiſhed, and which hung over the Road? To which ſhe conſented, and as they were there Eating and Drinking, and Talking Merrily, a parcel of *Heglers* came by, ſays one to the other, *Do you know whoſe fine Houſe that is? No not I.* One replied, *One of the greateſt Cuckolds in* England *lives there.* Pray, Madam, ſays Sir *William* to his Wife, give me your Hand, and let us be gone; for we know by the Market Folks how the Market goes.

197

A Citizen of *London* coming down the River from his Country houſe with his Wife; amongſt other Queſtions, asked the Waterman, What News? Faith, Maſter, ſays he, I don't hear any conſiderable Matter; but this Morning one of my Fraternity, *told me* there was a Law lately made, *That all Cuckolds muſt be drowned.* Oh, Lord, Husband